Lawmakers mad at DPWH over P35-B infra fund

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel

RISHON LETZION, Israel—Palestinian suicide bombers are back, just as the Israeli military was wrapping up its West Bank offensive that was launched more than a month ago to prevent such attacks.

A suicide bomber blew himself up Tuesday evening in a pool hall popular with teenagers, killing himself and 15 others in this city's business district, about 16 km

SUICIDE/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, May 9, 2002 ★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 150 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Jamming Erap, Jinggoy

By TJ Burgonio

HOW do you stop the irrepressible Estradas from granting mobile phone interviews?

The police are now shopping for a signal-slamming device. Confiscating their cell phones had not

JAMMING/A4

'PERIOD OF PURIFICATION'

Mea culpa: Church apologizes for priests' sex sins

By Armand Nocum

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday expressed remorse for the sins committed by priests, including those who had violated their vow of chastity.

Speaking for the CBCP in a rare press briefing, Msgr. Hernando Coronel, secretary general of the influential organization, also said the sex scandals currently rocking the Church worldwide would result in a "period of purification" for the local Catholic hierarchy.

"We apologize to the victims. We are sorry for the victims. We are sorry for the sins of the priests. We hope this will not happen again," Coronel said.

Agence France Presse quoted Coronel as saying that the CBCP was "aghast (at) the criminal dimension and the serial dimension of pedophilia." He was also quoted as saying that there was "a wide range of sexual misconduct" in the Church.

Coronel said the Church was also "trying to discourage the creation . . . in the seminary of a gay subculture," according to the AFP.

Asked whether the airing of complaints from victims would lead to a "massive dismissal" of priests here, he replied: "That might be a consequence."

In a statement, Bishop Socrates Villegas, spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Manila, urged the public, "especially the media," to bear in mind that "5 percent (of) the clergy are very good, holy and exemplary priests," and that only "1.6 percent or even lower are errant priests."

"The greater majority, which comprises more than 90 percent, are struggling hard to be

MEA/A4

GMA suspends PPA charge

Meralco accused of 'wholesale theft'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMERS groups are demanding a P12.3-billion refund for what they call an "act of wholesale theft" allegedly committed by dominant power retailer Manila Electric Co.

Meralco, however, is in no mood to hear out this demand, arguing that a recent government order preventing it from collecting deferred purchased power adjustment charges will hurt its finances.

The umbrella group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates, or Power, accused Meralco of stealing over P12.3 billion in surcharges from consumers through the PPA charges.

"Clearly, Meralco has been caught in the act of wholesale theft," Power spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. told the INQUIRER.

"The ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission) should order Meralco to refund its customers the P12.3 billion," Reyes said.

In an April 30 order, the ERC, a quasi-judicial body, ordered Meralco to stop collecting deferred PPA charges through monthly billings of customers.

In its order, the commission

MERALCO/A16

Junk Heherson, urges Tito's 'letter' to GMA

By Carlito Pablo

THERE appears to be cracks in the ruling Lakas-NUCD party.

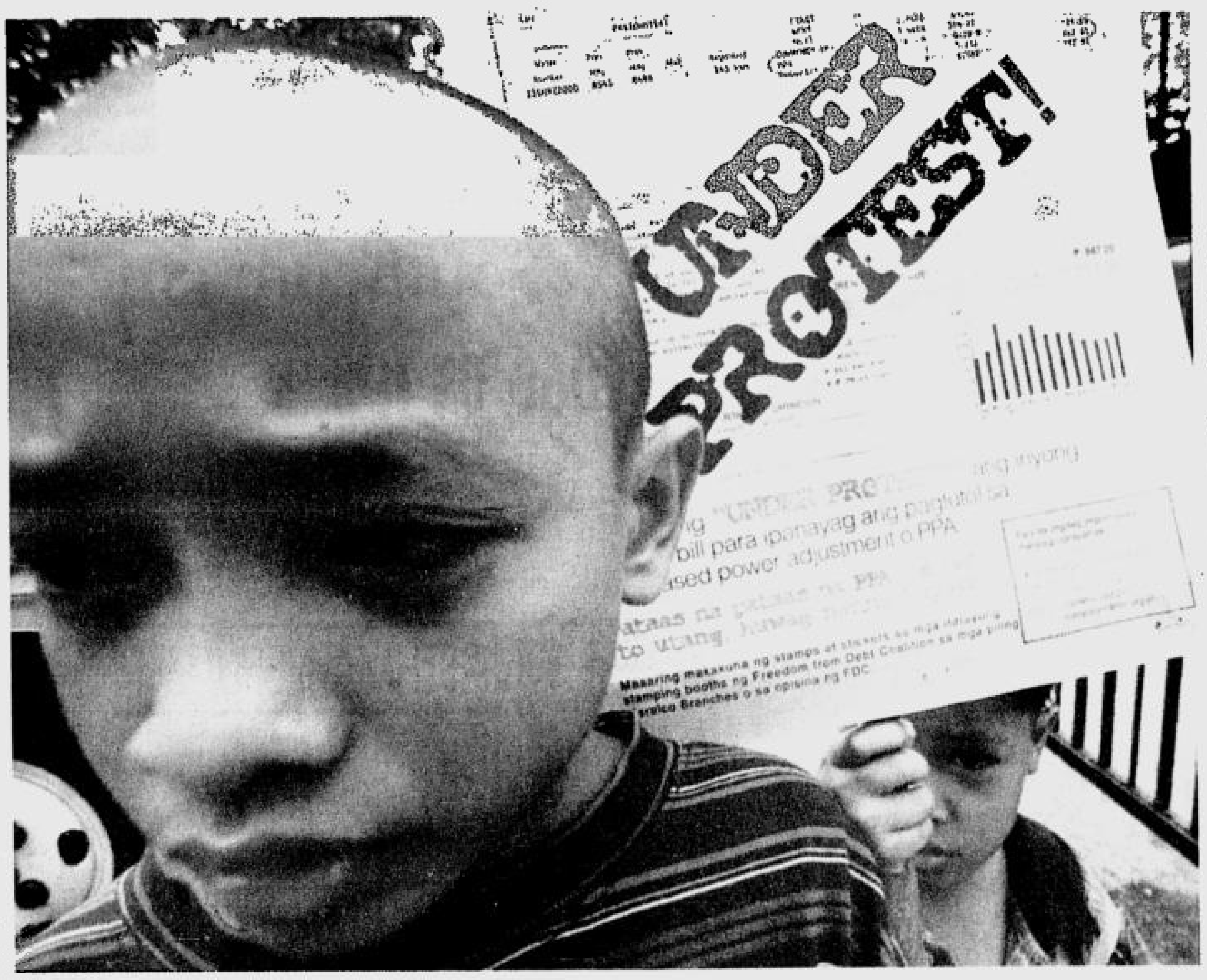
While party chair and House Speaker Jose de Venecia has been flexing political muscle to broker the problematic confirmation of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez before the Commission on Appointments, Lakas president and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. has junked Alvarez.

Alvarez is no ordinary Lakas member. He is the party's secretary general.

In a letter dated April 2 addressed to President Macapagal, the Lakas honorary chair, Guingona formally recommended former DENR undersecretary for legal affairs Roseller dela Peña to replace Alvarez at the DENR. Like Guingona, Dela Peña hails from Mindanao

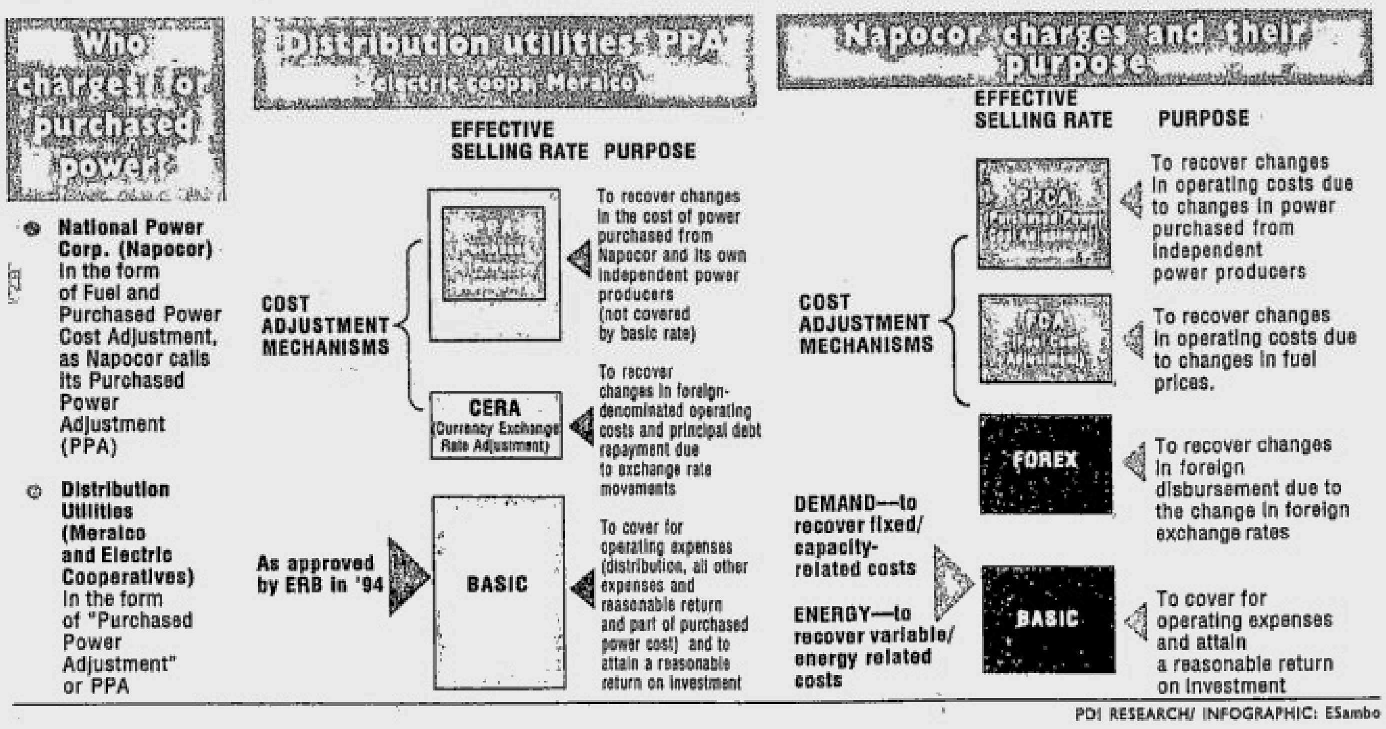
Guingona's letter was acknowledged in a letter dated April 17 by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) headed

JUNK/A4


UNDER PROTEST!

RISING protests to the rising cost of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) which accounts for nearly half the amount of the consumers' monthly Meralco electric bill.

DENNIS SABANGAN


Who charges for purchased power?
National Power Corp. (Napocor) In the form of Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment, as Napocor calls its Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA)
Distribution Utilities (Meralco and Electric Cooperatives) In the form of "Purchased Power Adjustment" or PPA
Distribution utilities PPA
electric coops, Meralco
EFFECTIVE SELLING RATE
PURPOSE
COST ADJUSTMENT MECHANISMS
To recover changes in the cost of power purchased from Napocor and its own independent power producers (not covered by basic rate)
CERA (Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment)
To recover changes in foreign-denominated operating costs and principal debt repayment due to exchange rate movements
As approved by ERB in '94
BASIC
To cover for operating expenses (distribution, all other expenses and reasonable return and part of purchased power cost) and to attain a reasonable return on investment
Napocor charges and their purpose
EFFECTIVE SELLING RATE
PURPOSE
COST ADJUSTMENT MECHANISMS
PPCA
To recover changes in operating costs due to changes in power purchased from independent power producers
FCA
To recover changes in operating costs due to changes in fuel prices.
FOREX
To recover changes in foreign disbursement due to the change in foreign exchange rates
DEMAND—to recover fixed/capacity-related costs
ENERGY—to recover variable/energy related costs
BASIC
To cover for operating expenses and attain a reasonable return on investment

PDI RESEARCH/ INFOGRAPHIC: ESambo

Expect lower electricity bill in July

By Rocky Nazareno, Dona Pazzibugan and Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPECT a lower electric bill in July.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the state-owned National Power Corp. to temporarily lower its controversial purchased power adjustment charge by P1.25 per kilowatt-hour amid a widespread clamor for the PPA's scrapping.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) the other day ordered the Manila Electric Co. to immediately stop collecting deferred PPA charges from its customers. ***(See related story this page.)***

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by Napocor and distribution utilities, like Meralco, to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs, and foreign exchange rate. ***(See graphs)***

In a news conference at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, the President said her directive to Napocor would result in a lower electric bill for consumers.

"For end-users consuming 200 kwh per month, this would result in savings of P170 per month," Ms Macapagal told local and foreign newsmen.

The President said she and Energy Secretary Vince Perez decided to reduce Napocor's PPA charge during a recent 24-hour boat ride to Tubbataha Reef in Palawan.

The portion of Napocor's PPA charge—P1.25/kwh—represents the higher cost of electricity produced by independent power producers (IPPs) that sell their output to the loss-making government corporation under multi-year contracts.

The independent power producers were given attractive contracts by the Ramos administration to encourage them to invest in producing electricity during an acute energy crisis during the 1990s.

Ms Macapagal said Napocor would stop collecting this por-

GMA/A16

'TUG-O-PORK'

Lawmakers mad at DPWH over ₱35-B infra fund

By Juliet L. Javellana and Armand Nocum

CONGRESSMEN are furious, this time not with each other, but with public works officials.

They reminded the Department of Public Works and Highways that it was the most "graft-ridden" department in the government. They said DPWH officials had been resisting the lawmakers' role in identifying infrastructure projects because they wanted the money for themselves.

Earlier, unnamed DPWH officials accused congressmen of cornering the bulk of the P34.8-billion infrastructure budget by identifying the projects. They said this practice had politicized the department and made it prone to graft.

"Or maybe they want to (identify the projects) for themselves," Raul Gonzalez, deputy speaker for the Visayas, said yesterday.

"Only those corrupt DPWH officials are resisting it because they want to . . . make more money. Many DPWH officials are very rich," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr.

Pichay, who chairs the defense committee, added: "They want to identify the projects as well as implement them? That is what I call total greed."

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the DPWH continued to be in full control of the infrastructure fund, and that lawmakers were only getting the credit for implementation.

"They want to get identified with the projects, so we include

LAWMAKERS/A4

Troops clash with Nur's men

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Soldiers clashed with armed followers of Nur Misuari, jailed ex-governor of Muslim Mindanao, killing an undetermined number of the gunmen, the military said yesterday.

Residents alerted the military about the presence of armed men near the town of Lumbabayabao on Tuesday, Capt. Noel Detoyato said.

Soldiers sent there to investigate were fired upon and forced to shoot back and are believed to have killed some of the attackers, he added.

ABU SAYYAF LEADER

GenSan bomber falls

By Julie S. Alipala, Charlie C. Señase and Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Muslim Alghazie, believed to be responsible for the series of bombings in General Santos City last month, has been captured by the military.

Alghazie and three other alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang were arrested in Cotabato City on Tuesday, Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy operations chief of the Southern Command, said yesterday.

Alghazie, whose real name is Jay-ar Jikirun, had claimed responsibility on behalf of the Abu Sayyaf for a bomb attack outside a mall in General Santos City that killed 15 people and wounded scores of others in April.

Six other suspects were detained earlier in connection with the blast.

Gudani said that Alghazie had just withdrawn money from an automated teller machine when he was intercepted at a roadblock manned by Marines and police in Cotabato City.

Bank teller's trip

"A bank teller called authorities about the presence of suspicious-looking men outside the ATM. The Marines and police immediately set up a checkpoint and intercepted the gang which was on board a Besta van," Gudani said.

Alghazie and his three companions—Kalid Bado, Arman Jayham and a certain Amirudin—were taken to the 6th Infantry Division headquarters in Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

The authorities found weapons and ammunition in their van, Gudani added.

Al-Ghazi, in telephone calls made to radio stations in Mindanao, had said the blasts were in retaliation for the ongoing joint Philippine-United States operations against their comrades on Basilan island.

Sattar Yacub, an Abu Sayyaf leader who was arrested earlier, has confirmed that Alghazie, whom he called Pottoh, was a gang member.

Dos Palmas raider

Yacub said Alghazie had participated in the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last year where 21 people were taken hostage.

The gang has been holding for a year now US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Filipina nurse Ediborah Yap in Basilan.

Their captors, reportedly led by Isnilon Hapilon, are demanding $2 million.

Police raided last Tuesday a house in Zamboanga City seeking to arrest Hapilon but the key Abu Sayyaf leader escaped.

Two assault rifles, 18 mortar rounds, one grenade and assorted ammunition were found in the house where Hapilon was believed to have taken refuge, the police report added.

More than 1,000 US troops have been deployed in Zamboanga and Basilan to assist Filipino troops against the Abu Sayyaf, which the Philippine and US governments have linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the US.

Abu's No. 4

Yacub, ranked No. 4 in the Abu Sayyaf's roster of leaders, was brought before the court yesterday to face 52 counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention and one count of murder.

Yacub, 38, whose real name is Abdulajid Ngayan, was arrested on May 3 while trying to seek refuge in a coastal village here after his group clashed with the military on April 29.

He claimed to have been trying to get to Zamboanga City to formalize his group's surrender.

In General Santos City, the police for the fourth time failed to present Commander Global at a scheduled arraignment yesterday.

Judge Antonio Lubao ordered Interior Secretary Jose Lina and PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to explain within 15 days why they failed to present Global who has been detained at Camp Crame since his arrest on July 8.

Global, whose real name is Nadzmi Saabdulla and is the Abu Sayyaf's alleged chief of staff, is being detained for illegal possession of explosives.

Security has been tightened around General Santos since Global's arraignment was scheduled.

Lubao said the police leadership had been properly notified of the schedule and that he was optimistic the arraignment would push through.

But Sr. Supt. Bartolome Baluyot said there has been no communication from Camp Crame regarding Global's arrival for the arraignment.

Aside from illegal possession of explosives, Global is also facing murder charges before a Davao del Norte court for the death of at least two employees of the Barcelo Pearl Farm on Samal island which his group had attacked in May 2001. ***With a report from AFP***

New Southcom chief 'a natural'

MAJ. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), will be the next Southern Command (Southcom) head.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made the surprise announcement during a press conference yesterday in Bangkok, Thailand, where she is on a two-day state visit.

When asked if she was ready to name her choice for Southcom, she turned to someone to her right and asked, "Should I?"

After a moment's pause she went on: "I have indicated to several senior officials of the AFP that I would like Ernesto Carolina to head the Southern Command."

Carolina, 54, will replace Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, whom the President named last Monday as the next AFP chief of staff.

Cimatu will replace Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who retires on May 20.

Cimatu and Carolina belong to the Philippine Military Academy Class '70.

The President appointed Carolina as Solcom chief on Dec. 14.

Solcom, which is based in Camp Nakar, Quezon, is mainly engaged in fighting the New People's Army.

Before heading Solcom, Carolina headed the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

He was born in Sampaloc, Manila, on Oct. 18, 1947.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes welcomed the appointment of Carolina, saying that he was the "natural choice because of his proven record in counter-insurgency."

"(General Carolina) also served as brigade commander in Mindanao. This adds to his qualification and competence," said Reyes who accompanied the President in her two-day visit to Malaysia and Thailand.

Reyes likewise noted that the former chief of the Southern Luzon command had extensive combat experience against New People's Army rebels in Quezon and the Bicol region.

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PERJURY TRIAL

New Erap account bared

By Volt Contreras

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada maintained multimillion-peso accounts with the Security Bank Corp., allegedly part of the wealth that he failed to declare during his short-lived term, it was revealed in court testimony yesterday.

SBC vice president Salvador Serrano, the first prosecution witness in the state's perjury case against Estrada, said the deposed president maintained three investment savings accounts with the bank with total deposits of P12.28 million as of Dec. 31, 1998.

The amount far exceeded the P5.5 million which Estrada had declared as his "cash in hand and in bank" in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 1998, state prosecutors allege.

The 1998 SALN is the subject of one of the two perjury cases filed against Estrada who is also being tried for economic plunder and illegal use of an alias before a special division of the Sandiganbayan.

Serrano said Estrada's three ISAs with the bank were opened in the SBC's San Juan branch on April 21, April 29, and June 8, 1998.

He said the three accounts were still active and earning interest, with the combined deposits totaling P13.7 million as of Feb. 12, 2001..

Serrano brought along documents on the three ISAs but admitted that majority had been signed only by a "representative" of Estrada.

Above the printed name "Joseph Ejercito Estrada" on each ISA document was the name "Baby Ortaleza," the witness said.

"I was told by our new accounts clerk that (Ortaleza) was a representative of President Estrada," Serrano said.

Defense lawyers moved to strike out this statement for being mere "hearsay" but Justice Minita Nazario allowed it to stay on the record albeit only as part of Serrano's narration.

The only document produced which contained what Serrano said was the authentic signatures of Estrada was a signature card covering the three ISAs.

But the bank official said he had not been present when Estrada affixed his signatures on the card.

Estrada is charged with lying in his 1998 SALN in which he and his wife, now Sen. Luisa Ejercito, had claimed that their total assets amounted to P37.38 million.

The Estradas also claimed to have only P5.5 million "cash in hand and in bank," as well as stakes in only three companies—JELP Real Estate and Development, JE Inc. and Feluisa Development.

But the prosecutors said Estrada had already been maintaining in 1998, aside from the Security Bank ISAs, accounts in Keppel Bank worth P44.26 million and in Asian Bank worth P548,121.

Estrada also did not declare his interest in nine other companies, the prosecutors alleged.

Meanwhile, lawyers for Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy asked for a reconsideration of the court's May 6 ruling denying his request to be examined and confined at another hospital for rectal bleeding or hematochesia.

The younger Estrada wants a 10- to 15-day stay at the San Juan Medical Center, located in the town which he had once governed as mayor.

Dr. Larry Hocson testified that a colonoscope, the instrument needed to examine Jinggoy, was not available at the Veterans Memorial Medical CeDGnter where his patient was being detained.

But Hocson, the director of the state-run SJMC, was forced to admit during cross-examination that a colonoscope was "portable" and could quite easily be brought to the VMMC.

Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio also pointed out that Hocson, aside from being no expert on Jinggoy's illness was also a relative, being the nephew of the elder Estrada.

"We just can't take the word of a relative-doctor," he said.

Estrada lawyer wants out

A COURT-APPOINTED lawyer for Joseph Estrada declared yesterday that she was ready to quit, saying the detained former president could well afford to hire his own counsel.

Lawyer Persida Acosta of the Public Attorneys' Office said her work for Estrada, who is on trial for corruption, was depriving poor defendants of free legal services offered by her government outfit.

"I will be filing a motion that I be relieved as counsel de officio because I have to give priority to my duty as head of the Public Attorneys' Office, where I supervise over a thousand public lawyers," she told ABS-CBN television here.

She added that she may not have the time to handle Estrada's case full time. *AFP*

Atong Ang extradition hearing reset

LAS VEGAS—An extradition hearing for former Philippine presidential gambling adviser Charlie "Atong" Ang has been pushed back to November, with the possibility that he might face the death penalty if he is tried on corruption charges.

US District Magistrate Lawrence R. Leavitt on Tuesday accepted a State Department letter stating that the US government won't require the Philippines to formally waive the death penalty in Ang's case.

Leavitt postponed until Nov. 4 a hearing to decide whether Ang should be deported. The US Secretary of State ultimately decides.

Ang, 43, a close friend and adviser to ousted President Joseph Estrada, was arrested last November in Las Vegas.

He has been charged in the Philippines with plunder, or the theft of public funds. The charge can carry the death penalty.

Ang is being held without bail in the custody of US Marshals in a North Las Vegas jail. He has denied wrongdoing.

Ang's lawyer, Donald Etra, insisted Tuesday that the United States is barred by treaty from extraditing a fugitive to the Philippines to face the possibility of death.

"Our point is clear," Etra said. "No assurance, no extradition."

However, Assistant US Attorney Gregory Damm said the treaty gives the US government the flexibility to refuse or allow extradition.

Ang left the Philippines when Estrada was ousted in January 2001.

He moved with his family to Las Vegas a year ago and has applied for political asylum. That matter is being handled by the US Immigration and Naturalization office in Anaheim, California. *AP*

Guingona nixes 'diplomatic' formula

By C. Herrera

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday rejected a proposal to have deposed ex-President Joseph Estrada placed under the custody of the Philippine Embassy in the United States while undergoing knee replacement surgery there.

Guingona, who is also foreign secretary, said that Estrada's case involved "premises that needed to be corrected first." He did not elaborate.

Lawyer Irene Jurado, one of 13 court-appointed counsels de officio for Estrada, asked the court last Tuesday to consider a "diplomatic" arrangement that would allow Estrada to be freed to seek treatment in the US.

She invoked the "principle of extraterritoriality under international law" under which the Philippine Embassy in Washington through Ambassador Albert del Rosario could take custody of the disgraced leader.

Under this arrangement, the court would not lose jurisdiction over Estrada, Jurado argued.

A DFA official, who requested anonymity, said there was strong basis for Guingona's rejection of the proposal of the Estrada camp.

The official explained that while the Philippine Embassy was considered an extension of Philippine territory—which means that Estrada would technically remain on Philippine soil even if he was in the US—this extraterritorial jurisdiction applied only to Del Rosario who is granted diplomatic immunity on that basis.

Besides, Estrada would be operated on in a hospital outside the Philippine Embassy, the official added.

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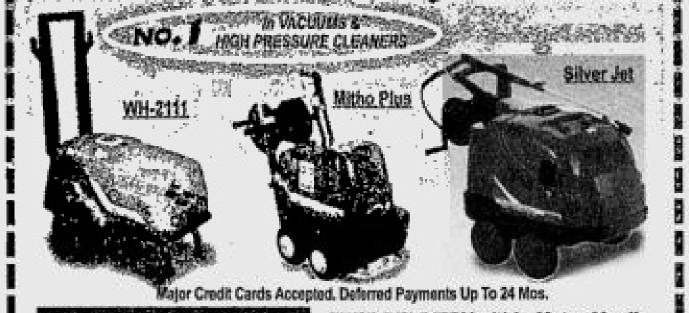

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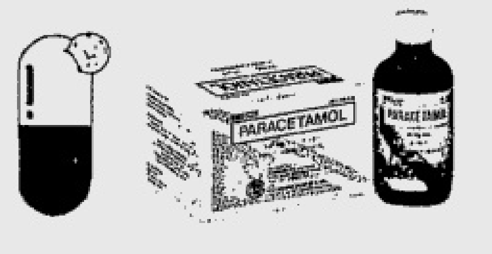

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DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

Lawmakers mad at DPWH over ₱35-B infra fund

From page A1

them in the billboards," he said yesterday, belying complaints from his people that lawmakers were practically taking their regular projects away from them.

According to Datumanong, the infrastructure projects that are classified strictly as pork barrel comprise a small portion of the DPWH infrastructure budget.

For example, he said, congressmen and senators would get only P11.4 billion in pork barrel funds from the P34.8-billion infrastructure budget.

"So, it is not true that (lawmakers) get to control things here," he said. "We are in control. We do the planning, the program of work, bidding and implementation of the projects."

The usual row

Malacañang cannot be bothered by the row, which Secretary Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for legislative affairs, described as "no different from previous occasions."

"Like in the past, they've found solutions to that problem in one way or another," he said.

Claudio noted that the congressmen appeared to be "nearing a solution" and said the Palace was leaving it up to them to come up with a formula acceptable to the majority.

In an interview over dzMM, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said she and Datumanong had met with leaders of the House appropriations committee to help lawmakers "find a more equitable distribution of the funds."

Boncodin noted that the government had allocated a total of P38 billion for infrastructure projects this year, and that 75 percent of this budget had been released.

The amount released by the budget department covers the period from January to October.

As Datumanong explained, the infrastructure budget, which is being implemented by the DPWH, is separate from the regular pork barrel called the Priority Development Assistance Fund.

According to published reports, congressmen are reviewing 13 alternative formulas that may replace the current system, which some lawmakers claim to be benefiting only 50 out of the 209 congressional districts.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon had complained that his district was getting only P3 million and the others, much bigger amounts.

He said yesterday that Congress was still in a deadlock despite a meeting of a technical working group the other day.

At present, infrastructure funds are distributed to districts on the basis of population density, infrastructure scarcity and equal sharing.

Failon said many congressmen were in favor of Alternative Scheme 6, which calls for 100-percent equal sharing regardless of population density and infrastructure scarcity.

The House public works committee has in fact approved this scheme, but many districts benefiting from the present scheme opposed it.

Jealousy

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said congressmen had the right to protect their districts from "unfair distribution of taxpayers' money."

"This is not bad," he said. "The real issue here is jealousy because in the past, the DPWH had full control over projects. Now they have to contend with legislators who have the power of the purse."

Villarama, however, said the public should do its part in preventing corruption.

"It is a fact that the DPWH is the most graft-ridden department," Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr. said in a privilege speech. "How dare these people with vested interests assail the integrity of the House!"

A Luzon-based congressman said the DPWH officials lost control over 80 percent of the infrastructure fund to congressmen who were now identifying their projects.

"They were left with only 20 percent of the fund to make money from," the congressman said. "*Away ito ng mga tulisan. Ang sabi nga, ang magnanakaw galit sa kapwa magnanakaw* (This is a fight between bandits. It's said that a thief is angry with his fellow thief)."

But Pichay defended the lawmakers' power to identify the projects that would be funded by the regular DPWH infrastructure budget.

"If they do not know the function of Congress, they should shut their mouths," he said.

He also said that aside from making laws, Congress held the power to allocate the budget for the national government.

"We are in charge of budgeting—that's where we fight for the welfare of our districts," Pichay said, adding that it was only right that congressmen identify the projects to be implemented.

"We are accountable to the people," he said. "These DPWH officials are only accountable to their appointing power. We submit ourselves to the people every three years."

Challenge

Gonzalez challenged the DPWH officials to inspect his projects in Iloilo to see if the projects were substandard.

He took umbrage at reports that congressmen were receiving commissions. "If (corruption) happens, the connivance is between the public works engineers and the Commission on Audit," he said.

Gonzalez said the job of ensuring that projects were not substandard belonged to public works engineers. Before contractors collect the payment, the COA should first certify that project specifications were complied with, he said.

Gonzalez also said the congressmen, as representatives of the people, had the mandate and the right to identify projects for funding.

"We are the ones who know the needs of our districts," he said. "It's part of our job to look after them."

He denied that the DPWH had lost control over the funds, and said the department was the one supervising the bidding and accrediting the contractors.

Gonzalez disclosed that the accreditation of contractors was itself a venue for corruption.

As many as 50 groups participate in the bidding, he said. Most of them are fake contractors who make money because they are paid by legitimate contractors just to back out of the bidding process, he said.

But because the accreditation is done at the DPWH central office in Manila, many spurious contractors from the provinces get accredited, he pointed out.

"I challenge the DPWH to start looking at its accreditation list," Gonzalez said.

Investigation

Syjuco delivered his privilege speech to denounce the DPWH officials quoted in the Inquirer report.

He made a motion for the House committee on good government to investigate the officials who had made the accusations, but later modified this motion to investigate the graft and corruption in the DPWH.

Syjuco's motion for investigation was defeated.

Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II said the congressmen had "the right to be angry over this report." But he said that since the Inquirer did not name the DPWH officials, it would be a waste of time for Congress to seek denials from the department.

Besides, he said, the Inquirer might have made the report just to "sell" the paper.

To which Syjuco said: "I doubt if the highest-selling, very reputable (newspaper) made this report just to sell their newspaper."

He explained the defeat of his motion thus: "First of all, there was no quorum. And many did not even respond to the ayes and nays."

A congressman who requested anonymity said the lawmakers did not want an investigation because "they are happy with their arrangements with the DPWH."

He did not elaborate.

Transparency

Datumanong also downplayed fears expressed by regional directors and district engineers that there would be irregularities in the bidding, with congressmen now identifying most of the infrastructure projects and naming their preferred contractors.

"That cannot happen because we are fully transparent in our bidding and there are safeguards against irregularities," he said.

He also said it was only logical for congressmen to name their projects because "they have a sense of what people need and what people want."

But another public works official said congressmen did get to "identify" projects over and above the P11.4 billion allotted as pork barrel.

He said that in next year's infrastructure budget, senators and congressmen got their names attached to the P6.9-billion projects comprising the promises made by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address and various national and foreign-assisted projects.

They also got to be credited in some of the P16.5-billion major foreign-assisted projects undertaken by the DPWH project management offices, the official said.

He said that strictly speaking, DPWH officials were left to implement some P1.2 billion considered part of the P11.4-billion pork barrel funds. But even for this amount, he said, they should get the "concurrence" of senators and congressmen in the project implementation.

Still, like Datumanong, the official insisted that members of Congress were only getting the "credit," and not the "control," of the projects. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Junk Heherson, urges Tito's 'letter' to GMA

From page A1

by Secretary Silvestre Afable, concurrently the acting press secretary of President Macapagal. It was signed by Jose Wilfrido S. Oca, PMS Director IV.

Unthinkable

"The Vice President will never do that. That's unthinkable," Alvarez said when contacted by the Inquirer.

"There's no such thing," Alvarez said, referring to the Guingona letter.

"100 percent fallacy. Attorney Dela Peña was dismissed, he was part of the Estrada regime that the Vice President and I fought.

"The Vice President is pushing for my confirmation as the President is pushing for my confirmation," he told the Inquirer.

While a congressman, Alvarez was one of a handful of original complainants in the impeachment case filed against then President Joseph Estrada that culminated in Edsa II.

Denial

The office of the Vice President also said that Guingona was pushing for Alvarez's confirmation.

"That's strange—why the Vice President would recommend somebody else when he's for Secretary Alvarez at the DENR," said Agnes Huibonhua, Guingona's chief executive assistant.

Guingona himself was not available for comment.

But Alvarez said he had talked to Guingona who assured him of his confidence in him as DENR secretary and Lakas secretary general.

He said there's no split in the party and expected Guingona to issue a statement to clear up the matter.

"There's a lot of forgeries going around," Huibonhua stressed.

Alvarez said the report was part of a disinformation campaign to prevent his confirmation.

Cabinet revamp

A well-placed Inquirer source had told the Inquirer that either Alvarez or Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez may be replaced by Ms Macapagal in a coming Cabinet revamp.

The confirmation of the appointments of the two Alvarezes has been stalled at the Commission on Appointments.

They have been bypassed by the CA several times and had to be reappointed by the President.

GUINGONA: Not true

ALVAREZ: It's unthinkable

Yesterday, the CA moved to defer consideration of Heherson Alvarez's confirmation until May 21, about two weeks before Congress takes a break in early June.

The Inquirer source said President Macapagal will announce new appointees to her Cabinet on or before she delivers her State of the Nation Address in July.

Who's he?

Dela Peña, 58, is a Mindanaoan like Guingona. He's a native of Pagadian City.

Dela Peña is no stranger to the DENR. Before his appointment as undersecretary to then Secretary Antonio Cerilles during the Estrada administration, he held the post of assistant secretary for land and legislative affairs.

Before his stint at the DENR, he was department manager of the Strategic Investment Development Corp., formerly the Human Settlements Development Corp.

Dela Peña also served as senior legal counsel of the National Investment Development Corp., a subsidiary of the Philippine National Bank.

A law graduate from the University of the East, he occupied various positions in several private corporations.

Other bets

Sources earlier said that the Reporma party of former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa also wants the DENR post for its party's secretary general, Jose Ma. Gerochi.

Sources also said that another candidate for the DENR is former Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando who has reportedly impressed Ms Macapagal with the way he has transformed Marikina into an environment-friendly city.

But De Venecia has reportedly been actively campaigning to secure Alvarez's confirmation. A rejection of Alvarez's DENR appointment will adversely affect the stature of Lakas as the ruling party. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Mea culpa: Church . . .

From page A1

good, praying hard to God and serving quietly their people," Villegas said in the statement titled "Stained but Beautiful."

These priests are "the ones who earnestly need our prayers and support," he said.

There are about 4,000 priests in the country.

Last Tuesday, Sr. Lydia Ebora, the Philippine head of the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS), and a priest who requested anonymity told the Inquirer that the RGS Heart of Mary Villa in Malabon was one of the charity centers providing care to women who had been impregnated by priests.

The center for unwed mothers admits two or three such cases every year, Ebora said.

Hard look

Coronel said the "period of purification for the Church" would include a comprehensive review of cases of sexual misconduct involving priests.

"The bishops will have to take a hard look at these cases and encourage priests to make hard decisions," he said. "It is a period for us to become more holy."

But he said those concerned should rest assured that the review would conform with canonical procedures and would be conducted by a panel of bishops, lay people, psychologists, family members, and canon and criminal lawyers.

Coronel said certain bishops were known to be "strict" in dismissing wayward priests.

The punishment ranges from censure to suspension and "laicization," a canonical declaration wherein an erring priest reverts back to lay status, he said. But there is a "possibility" for those found to have committed less grievous sins to be "reinstated" and allowed to serve the Church as "chaplains."

Coronel, however, stressed that the Church had not been remiss in punishing erring priests.

He said the days were long gone when Church officials sent erring priests overseas or transferred them to other parishes to escape the heat. "*Hindi na uso na itinatago yung mga pari* (It's no longer customary for the Church to shield priests from scandal)," he said.

He also stressed that Church officials were taking the issue "by the horns," and that the CBCP was "willing to listen" and "trying to help."

Coronel called on victims of sexual abuse by priests to come forward.

But like Villegas, he said that the erring priests were only a "minority," and that the majority were "struggling to be holy."

Beautiful

Villegas said that while the priesthood had been "stained by a few . . . it remains ever beautiful because of so many good and holy ministers of Christ."

"As to the erring priests, the Church is both mother and teacher," he said. "We are always in the pursuit of truth. We will investigate if needed. We will seek justice at all times. Penalties will be served. Rehabilitation programs and assistance will be extended to both victims and offenders."

But the Church is "a healer more than a judge," Villegas said.

"The salvation of all the faithful is our primary duty," he said, adding that prayers should be said "for the sanctification of priests."

Jamming Erap, Jinggoy

From page A1

worked.

On May 1, the former President, in violation of court rules, granted an interview to ABS-CBN anchor Korina Sanchez, using a cell phone which a staff member had reportedly sneaked into the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City.

On Tuesday morning, Estrada's son, Jinggoy, used a cell phone to give an interview to dzBB anchor Arnold Clavio. Police security officers seized the cell, the fourth one since the detention of father and son at the VMMC last year.

"We had to do that because the interview was conducted without clearance from the courts. Besides, they are not allowed to use cell phones while in detention," said a police security official who requested not to be named.

"I feel sorry for my men who have to keep monitoring every movement of the Estradas, especially when it comes to media interviews," he told the Inquirer.

The official, who is in charge of the Estradas' security, said he had found "a signal-slammer" worth P60,000. He declined to say when he planned to set up the device.

Clearance needed

The Philippine National Police has been very strict with the Estradas since the former President made caustic remarks against the Macapagal administration on national TV last December.

Mediamen have to secure a clearance from the Sandiganbayan, where the Estradas are on trial for plunder, before they are allowed to interview the detainees. Once cleared, a police official has to be present during the interview to monitor their statements.

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No layoffs, airport workers assured

By Norman Bordadora

THE MANILA International Airport Authority has reiterated that none of its almost 2,000 regular employees would be laid off once international flight operations are transferred to the international airport's new Terminal 3 by the end of the year.

Edgardo Manda, the airport general manager, said he would have this guarantee written in an official memorandum to allay the fears of the MIAA's rank-and-file employees at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The fact that Piatco, the consortium that won the contract to build the new terminal, is to initially oversee the operations of Terminal 3 under the build-operate-transfer scheme has provoked fears that some officials and employees of the MIAA may have to go.

"This government is about creating jobs. The President has said that we should come up with employment for the people so definitely we would not go against that and lay off some employees," Manda said at a news briefing.

The German-based Fraport—one of the participating companies in Piatco's multibillion-dollar project—has also tried to reassure the anxious employees.

"There are many jobs for everyone," a Fraport executive said earlier.

The MIAA and Fraport, however, have been silent on the fate of companies providing ground services which also employ about 2,000 people.

The ground service providers, security and maintenance agencies stand to lose the business when the bulk of airport operations are transferred to the Naia 3.

In a related development, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she did not know the mystery man who allegedly brokered Pitaco's "sweetheart deals" with the government.

"I don't know Alfonso Liongson.. How can he be a friend of my family?" she shot back when the question was raised during a press conference in Bangkok yesterday. She did not elaborate.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla on Tuesday accused Piatco of getting more favorable terms for its contract to build and operate Terminal 3 through Liongson.

He described Liongson as a shadowy character whose only qualifications were his closeness to certain government officials.

He claimed Piatco had paid Liongson $1 million when he was a mere "consultant."

In a privilege speech, Padilla said Liongson "must be merely fronting or acting as a conduit of a powerful individual who can secure the additional privileges and benefits Piatco is asking for." ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

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1:30 – 2:00 PM	Adtel / Global Streams	Globecaster All-In-One Solutions-Studio-In-A-Box -- Mr. Roden Driza	Globecaster / Communications Solutions
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Porta Systems	Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment -- Mr. David Rawlings	Connection / Protection Systems
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Computer Associates	eBusiness Security Solutions -- Mr. Yancy Piczon	Ebusiness Management Software
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Adtel / Polycom	H.323 & Infrastructure Around It	

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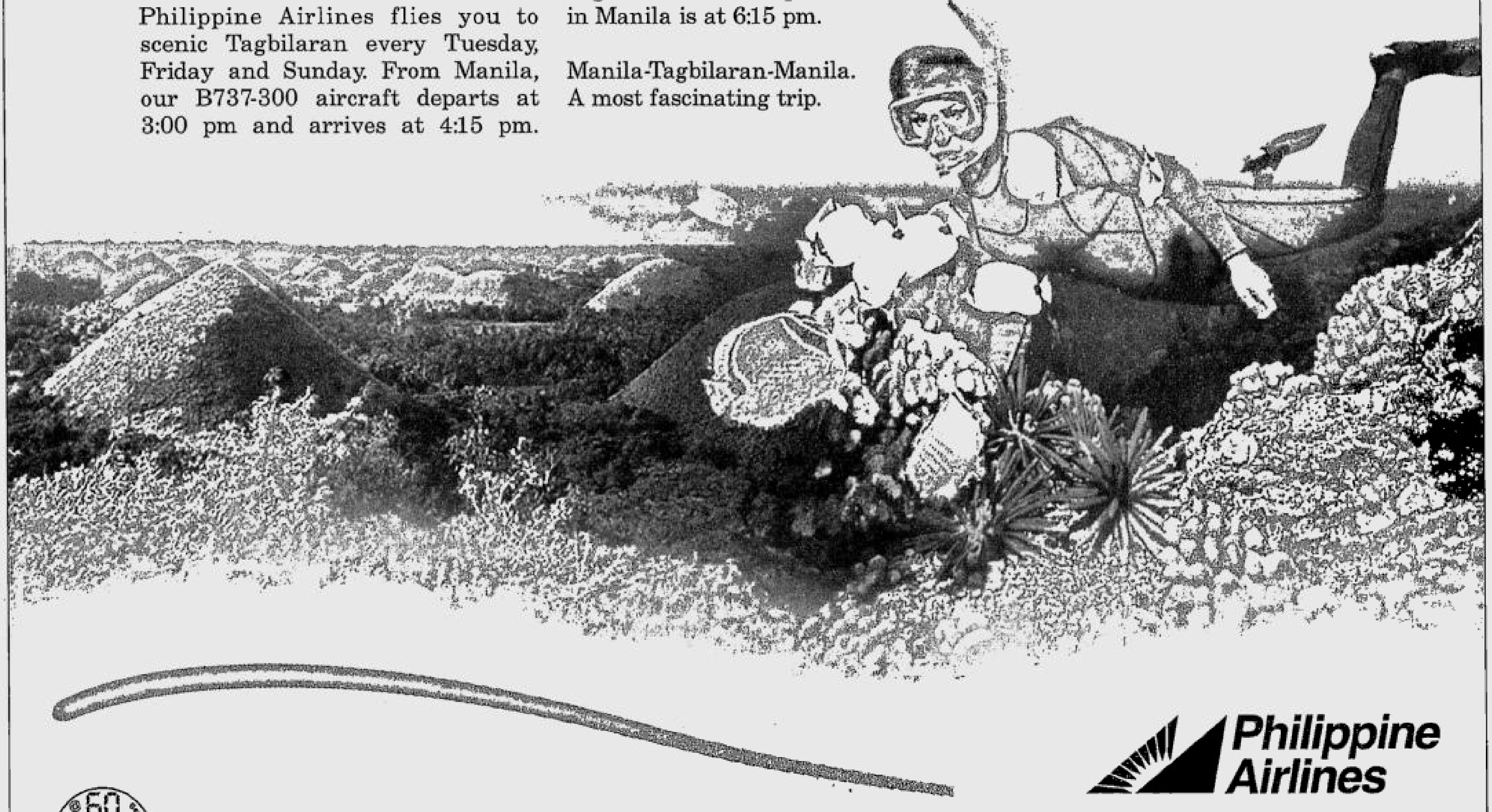

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GSIS role in bank deal probed

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday ordered a preliminary investigation into the allegedly irregular purchase of P7.5 billion worth of shares of the Philippine Commercial and International Bank by the Government Service Insurance System during the previous Estrada administration.

Desierto also ordered his probers to place 10 top GSIS officials under investigation to ascertain if they personally benefited from the deal.

Desierto was acting on the criminal and administrative complaints filed by Rosendo A. Castillo, general secretary of the Christian Convergence for Good Governance, a non-government organization, against officials of the GSIS and the Equitable Banking Corp. and Equitable Banking Corp. Investments Inc.

Desierto said the 1999 deal had been accomplished with the alleged complicity of EBC president Wilfredo Vergara and EBCII chair George Go.

The allegedly "overpriced" and lopsided deal paved the way for the eventual merger of the EBC and PCIB, with the former as the surviving controlling entity.

The GSIS officials were identified as board chair Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., executive vice president Reynaldo Palmiery, senior vice president for general counsel Manuel Crudo, senior vice president for the finance group Aurora Mathay and senior vice president for treasury Vicente Villegas.

Also implicated were GSIS employee Catherine Sotto and trustees Fulgencio Factoran, Leovigildo Arellano, Aida Nocete, Florino Ibañez and Leonora de Jesus.

Desierto said the CCGG had submitted four volumes of supporting documents and affidavits to charges.

"My officials checked the documents... and found them sufficient at this point," said Desierto.

The Ombudsman Preliminary Investigation Bureau is handling the two criminal cases filed by the CCGG (graft and malversation), while the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB) is handling the administrative case.

The CCGG said the deal involved the payment up front by the GSIS of P1.165 billion for overpriced shares.

It said the PCIB shares were bought at P290.075 per share when the market price prevailing at the time of the sale was only P245 per share.

Castillo accused the GSIS officials of ignoring the GSIS' established practice and procedures in any proposed equity investment.

He said the GSIS investment committee was never asked to review the deal.

The CCGG also questioned the apparent use of GSIS funds to enable a "favored entity, EBC" to acquire control of the PCIB.

Moreover, in paying an overprice P1.165 billion for such a purpose, t GSIS allegedly "illegally subsidiz EBC's acquisition of PCIB."

Castillo said the deal had also fected the "actuarial solvency" of t state-run pension fund, thus affecti its ability to meet its future oblig tions.

He noted that even the seller ha stated that the GSIS being a pensio fund and not a bank was "not in a pos tion to exploit and benefit from th supposed strategic advantage offere by the transaction."

Thais want in on anti-terror agreement

By Rocky Nazareno

THAILAND has expressed an interest in joining a trilateral anti-terrorism pact signed among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal has promised Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra she would send him a copy of the accord, signed by the three countries on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur, according to a statement.

The agreement provides a framework by which Philippine, Malaysian and Indonesian authorities would cooperate to combat terrorist groups and prevent them from using their assets for criminal activities, such as piracy, arms smuggling and drug trafficking among others.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri also favors expanding the agreement to include Bangkok "to further solidify the group in fighting terrorism and transnational crimes," the statement said.

All four countries are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, along with Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Singapore and Vietnam.

In Bangkok, Ms Macapagal yesterday called on Thai businessmen and investors to "catalyze the collaboration in trade, tourism and business" between the two countries as she witnessed the signing of six memoranda of understanding by the private sector that would primarily spur development in tourism and information technology.

Speaking before the Joint Standing Committee on commerce, trade, industry and banking and the Thailand Philippines Business Council, Ms Macapagal said that since assuming the presidency a year ago, her administration has embarked on a "war against poverty" that has been anchored on "an economic philosophy of transparency and free enterprise; a modern agricultural sector founded on social equity; a social bias toward the disadvantaged; and higher moral standards in government and society."

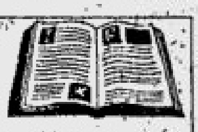
As such, Ms Macapagal said the Department of Trade and Industry had drawn up an extensive list of growth areas and priorities that would be open to prospective investors and eligible for incentives.

"Among the most promising is the information and communications technology (ICT) sector," she said.

She urged Thai businessmen and investors to look at the Philippines for outsourcing opportunities in five main areas—call center services, software development, medical transcription, business process outsourcing and animation."

Ms Macapagal noted that "Filipino expertise in animation may be tapped to add value to your films, advertisements and educational materials." *With AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Thursday, May 9, 2002
The Ascension of the Lord

1st Reading:	**Acts 1:1-11**
2nd Reading:	**Eph 1:17-23**
Gospel:	**Mt 28:16-20**

As for the Eleven disciples, they went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Jesus, they bowed before him, although some doubted.

Then Jesus approached them and said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples from all nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to fulfill all that I have commanded you. I am with you always until the end of this world."

Commentary

Now you see me, now you don't. Three days later, watch out here I come! Sounds as if Jesus could see his future all neatly mapped out? No. Jesus wasn't just pretending to be human. He lived as we do, finding the path by walking, in faithfulness to God. The gospel is written with hindsight, not aiming at the realism of documentary but at sharing the Christian community's faith in Jesus. We do not read the gospel to find out what happened—we already know—but to grasp the significance of what happened. John is preparing us to receive the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus not as a tragedy but as a journey through loss and grief to unimaginable joy. Turning sorrow to joy is always Christ's mission and ours.

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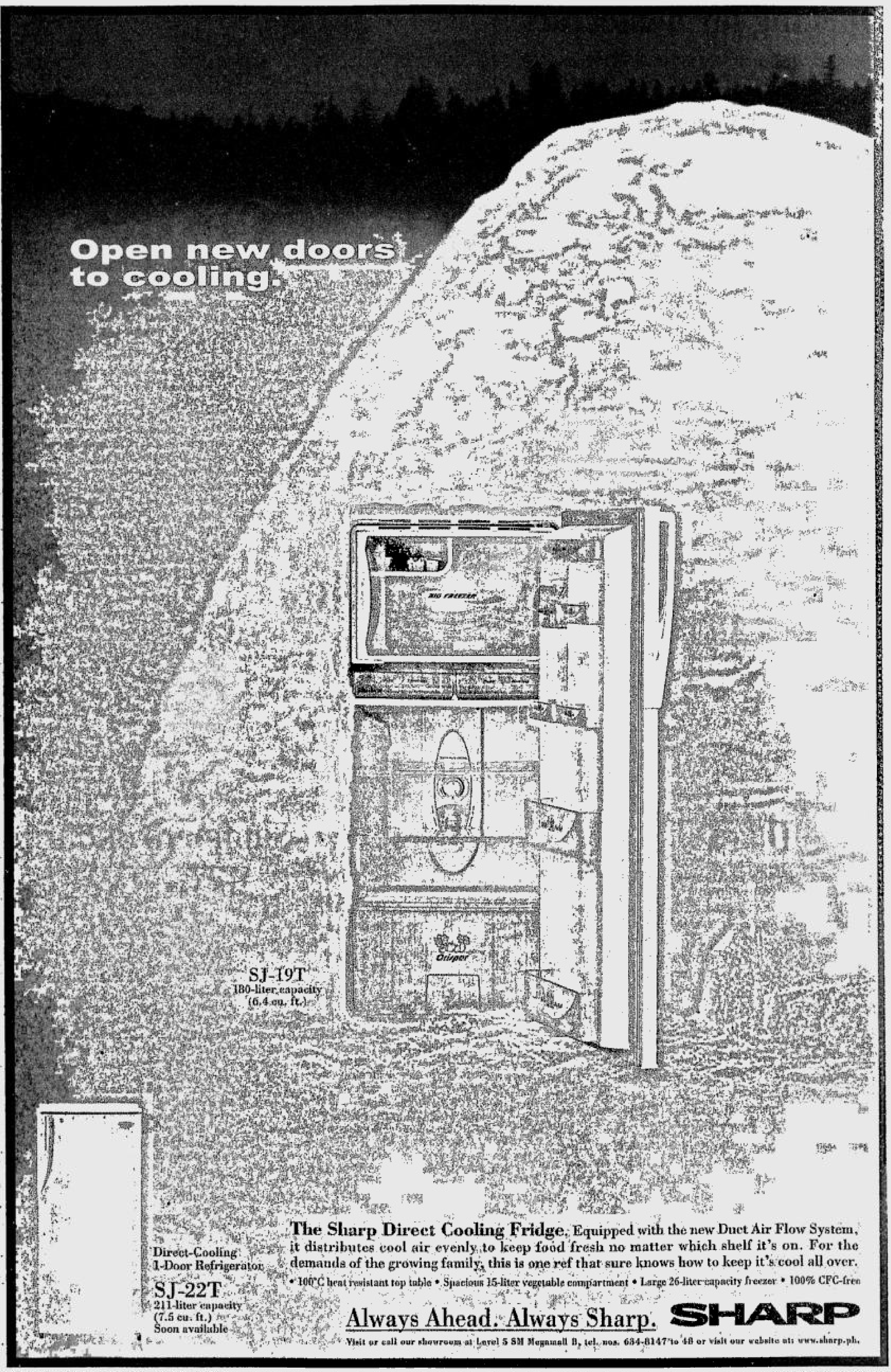
SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Voluntary surrender— Voluntary surrender does not simply mean non-flight. As a matter of law, it matters not if the accused never avoided arrest and never hid or fled. What the law considers as mitigating is the voluntary surrender of the accused before his arrest, showing either acknowledgment of his guilt or an intention to save the authorities from the trouble and expense that his arrest and capture would require. The fact that the accused did not escape or go into hiding after the commission of the crime, without however surrendering to him and admitting complicity in the killing, did not amount to voluntary surrender to the authorities, and this circumstance would not be extenuating in that case. In other words, the accused must actually surrender his own person to the authorities, admitting to complicity in the crime. His conduct after the commission of the crime must indicate a desire on his part to own responsibility for the crime. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Nicholas, G. R. No. 142044, November 23, 2001]

Digest by R. B. Vera



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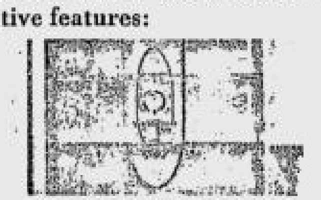
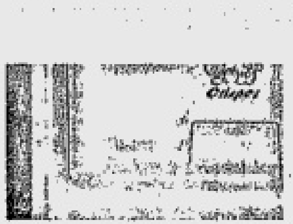


Duct Air flow System distributes cold air evenly.



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Opening for democracy

EDITORIAL

FOLLOWING her release last Monday after 19 months of house arrest by Burma's military junta, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi cautioned her followers against expecting an early end to military rule. "I don't think my release should be looked upon as a major triumph for democracy," she said. "After all, that is not the object of the struggle. It was never to assure my freedom. It was to assure that all the people of Burma enjoy the democratic freedoms to which they should be entitled."

In her first public appearance after her release, Suu Kyi greeted her jubilant supporters at the headquarters of her National League of Democracy party and urged them to begin the task of rebuilding it for political activity. In this effort, the pledge of the Burmese government that she can do as she pleases without restrictions will soon be tested. The world, which hailed the release as a democratic opening, will be watching what the junta will do to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The recommendations include the release of more than 1,000 political prisoners, an end to torture and forced labor, the introduction of freedoms of expression, movement and assembly and the protection of ethnic and religious communities.

Suu Kyi was not freed out of the good heart of the Burmese military which had ruled the country under a dictatorship that isolated Burma politically and economically from the rest of the world or because of the unta's sudden conversion to democracy. International economic sanctions and political pressure have severely hurt the Burmese economy, fuelling unrest among the Burmese people. (We had a similar experience during he final years of martial law, when pressure from the United States and other Western democracies forced Ferdinand Marcos to cede ground to those demanding political liberalization.)

Europe and the United States have imposed trade anctions on Burma for several years. In 1997, US President Bill Clinton banned new American investments in Burma. In the US Congress, there's a bill eeking further sanctions. Apparently, the economic solation of Burma, which in the best of times has been nward-looking, forced the junta to enter into secret negotiations over the release of Suu Kyi and political iberalization.

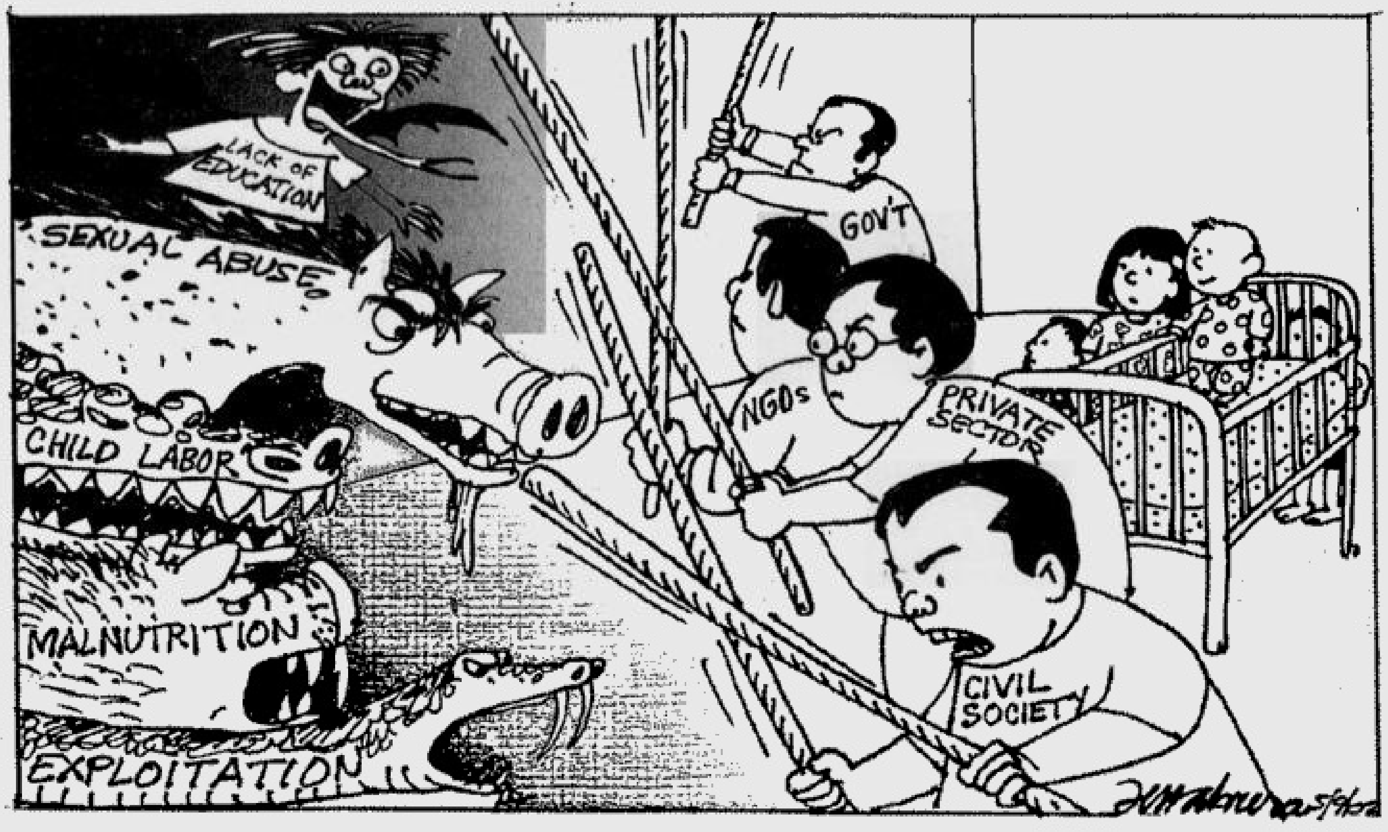
As Suu Kyi continues negotiations with the junta, she holds as a bargaining chip Western economic aid. The unta expects a reward in terms of the resumption of aid n exchange for the release of Suu Kyi and the opening up of politics to opposition activities. But aid donors are not expected to pour aid, and neither are investors xpected to return in droves following her freedom. For one thing, there are contentious issues over where aid will go—whether it will be spent for social services in a very poor country and economic development or it will be concentrated on the military.

Given this leverage, Suu Kyi is astute enough to know hat she can extract concessions from the junta to bring back fundamental democratic processes and instituions. This will be hard to do, as the country has been uled by the military for decades. Still the return of free elections is an issue that requires immediate attention because that is the starting point of democratization. In he country's last election in 1990, Suu Kyi's party won by a landslide, taking 82 percent of the seats in parliament. The junta refused to recognize the results, and arrested Suu Kyi and other opposition leaders.

The Western democracies not only refused to give egitimacy to the junta but went further by imposing economic sanctions.

If Western sanctions played a key role in forcing Burma to release Suu Kyi, there is no evidence that ntervention by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations had any effect in softening the junta's position on Suu Kyi. When she was rearrested in 1995, Asean ook the tack of engaging Burma in a dialogue of persuasion, believing that pressure would only harden he junta's political repression. The dialogue appeared utile and the "Asean way" of diplomacy only gave Burma an incentive to tighten its isolation as a political pariah until the sanctions began to hurt

Suu Kyi owes her release not to Asean but to nternational diplomacy and her own steadfastness in keeping alive the aspirations of the Burmese people to be free.



Solons are like vultures fighting over carcass

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

YOU'VE seen it many times on Discovery, National Geographic and Animal Planet channels: a gang of predators like lions, or groups of scavengers like vultures, crocodiles, hyenas and jackals fighting over the carcass of some hapless animal. That's what comes to mind as we witness the tawdry spectacle of our congressmen fighting over the division of the multibillion-peso pork barrel funds.

Note that I wrote "funds" because there is not only one but two pork barrel funds. One is the regular pork innocuously named the Priority Development Assistance Fund. The other is the P34.8 billion Infrastructure Fund. The congressmen and senators divide the funds among themselves. Each senator gets P100 million while each congressman gets P35 million in infrastructure funds a year.

Infrastructure projects are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Highways. They are supposed to choose the projects to be undertaken and implement them. Not anymore. Congress has taken over. Each legislator is a de facto DPWH who chooses the projects to be undertaken in his district, chooses the contractor to whom the construction will be awarded (after going through the pretense of a public bidding of course) and accepts the kickbacks from the contractors.

The job of legislators is precisely that: to legislate laws. But they prefer to usurp the job of the executive department, especially the DPWH, in implementing projects. They run for election to Congress, but once they are elected, they prefer to act as DPWH engineers. Why don't they have themselves appointed to the DPWH, as Secretary Simeon Datumanong has done, and let those who prefer to enact laws run for Congress instead? That way, members of Congress don't have to suffer from schizophrenia.

Because of this split personality, we see our "honorable" congressmen fighting over the pork barrel funds like the predators and scavengers mentioned earlier. Except that they are fighting over the carcass not just of an unlucky animal but of millions of people, the taxpayers. They are fighting over the taxes paid by these people.

Legislators were elected and are being paid to legislate laws. They have no business acting as pseudo-DPWH engineers. Yet the executive department—whose authority is being usurped—and the public have come to accept this annual anomaly of congressmen appropriating for themselves pork barrel funds. And every year, the amounts appropriated keep getting bigger.

So now, instead of using the time to deliberate on needed laws, our legislators waste their time fighting over pork.

Some DPWH officials grumble—but only to themselves. They dare not voice out their complaints against the congressmen because they hold the power of the purse. They can always reduce, or even withhold, the budget of the DPWH, not to say investigate, "in aid of legislation," DPWH officials on some trumped-up charges.

"Legislators now call the shots at the DPWH," a district engineer bravely told the Inquirer but he expectedly did not want to be identified. "They are not engineers or architects, so why don't they just stick to making and passing laws?"

The pork barrel system, by the way, is the main reason our public works projects are substandard. Kickbacks range from 19 percent to 52 percent of the project cost. The contractors has to get that back plus a profit for himself somehow. So how does he get it back? By scrimping on the construction materials and the work.

Instead of using the required diameter of reinforcing steel bars, he uses smaller and cheaper ones. Instead of paving the road with eight inches of concrete as required, he makes it only six inches. Instead of using fast-drying, high-quality portland cement, he uses the slower-drying and cheaper, pozzolan cement. He uses less cement and more of sand, gravel and water in the mixture to economize. Instead of filling up with concrete the hollows of hollow blocks as he should, he stuffs old newspapers and cement bags instead into them. When the project is finished, nobody would see them anyway. And the DPWH official who is supposed to check on the quality of the work lets these irregularities pass because he himself gets part of the kickback.

So if the Constitution is to be amended, would it be too much to ask that the charter make it very clear that the duty of legislators is to legislate laws and not to usurp the functions of the executive department? On second thought, the people who would amend the Constitution would be the senators and congressmen themselves and their dummies, so it is too much to expect that they would put in that provision.

And on third thought, one of the priorities of charter change is to change into a parliamentary system of government. In which case these same congressmen now fighting over pork would be the new members of parliament with no Senate to temper their abuses and stupidity.

Worse, the head of government, the prime minister, will come from their ranks. One of these congressmen now salivating and shamelessly fighting for more pork may become our next prime minister!

Can you imagine a more horrifying future for the Filipinos?

Summers of our lives

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW a wonderful sight in the province recently.

It was a hot day that day, the sun roaring down with the fury of one scorned, or no longer worshipped. Noontime was particularly oppressive, the warmth being a palpable, and not very welcome, presence even in the shade. But by early afternoon, the clouds rolled in and the skies darkened.

I had gone to a friend's house in the outskirts of the city. Where he lived, trees grew in profusion, forming at their thickest a canopy over the road. My kid said the air smelled sweet, and I thanked God his powers of smell had not been defeated by living all 13 years of his life in Metro Manila, home to smog and the stench of garbage. I myself could feel the difference in my lungs, which felt almost raw from the onslaught of oxygen.

But that was not the wonderful thing I saw. What was, was a horde of kids on the road leading to my friend's house. School was out and the heat had driven them out of their huts into the road. This wasn't a road where too many vehicles passed, except tricycles and pedicabs, and the kids had turned it into a playground. Bodies darkened by sun and dust darted to and fro, while others huddled in groups telling stories. Music wafted from a house somewhere down the road, and a couple of boys gyrated to it, laughing and jostling each other.

Half an hour after I got to my friend's house, rain began to patter, globules of water pelting the earth and sending a myriad of small explosions in the dust. A chorus of yelps arose from the direction where I saw the children playing. When I looked out the window, I saw them reveling in the rain. Some had their arms upraised, some were trying to catch the water with open mouths and some were jumping up and down. No one dove for cover, no one scrambled away. Soon their clothes began to cling to their backs and drip water. They kicked at the pools of muddy water that had swiftly collected on various parts of the road, shouting and laughing.

I went upstairs to where my kid and my friend's kid were busy pounding on computer keys trying to blast each other to pieces. I said, "Why don't you guys go outside and play?'

They looked at me as though I had just climbed down from a spaceship and said, "Greetings." I said the computer wasn't going to go away, but the rain would, in an hour or so. Indeed, I added philosophically, the summer would, in the blink of an eye, or two.

My kid suddenly discovered the virtues of not risking disease, and complained that the rush of rain after much heat might just cause him to catch cold, taking vigorous sniffs to suggest he was particularly susceptible to it at that point. I did wonder aloud about acid rain. My friend laughed and said, "Manila maybe, but no such thing here."

Images of summers past darted through my mind, chasing each other. I supposed that in reality a great deal of those summers must have been boring. But through the tinted glasses of memory, they now glowed with a golden sheen, heat and dust and all. They stretched out in a haze forever, like Tom Sawyer's and Huckleberry Finn's own summers. We did not hang from the branch of a tree overlooking the shallow part of a river, gnawing on a long dry weed and spitting expertly as far as we could while waiting for the fishes to bite. We went out to play. Or what is probably the same thing, we went out with infinite wonder to explore the mysteries of life.

There was no end of games to play, which was enough to make me think the march of progress, represented by toys and computer games, wasn't always a march forward. There were marbles and rubber bands and *teks*, fads that tumbled one after the other like day and night. They were the modern ones, games that required parting with precious centavos. There were far more plentifully games that were completely free: *tumbang preso*, which required only a tin can; *patintero*, or *turubigan* as it was called in our place because the squares on the street were marked with water from the canal; climbing trees and preferably pilfering their yield; catching beetles; and no end of running games.

I remembered one game I particularly liked and whose origins I never got to trace. It was called "*insurecto*," which I suspect may have originated during the American occupation, or maybe even well before that. It required two groups, one to run away and hide in a designated area, and another to hunt them down and chase them after spotting them. Unlike in real life, the *insurectos* got a sporting chance, and often won.

And of course we ran out into the streets and stuck out our tongues heavenward at the first patter of rain.

The saddest kid in the neighborhood, I always thought, was the one who lived down the block who was cursed with a massive musical talent and was made to play the piano every day by his parents and a private teacher. Even in summer. We became classmates, and he asked me once how it felt to play in the streets. I thought it was a silly question, and said why didn't he try it. He shook his head sadly and said he wasn't allowed to ruin his fingers.

Of course, he eventually became a brilliant avant-garde composer and arranger and is held in high esteem by his colleagues abroad. But that is another story.

While an April rain fell some weeks ago, I watched my kid and his playmate facing the computer screen while emitting all sorts of sounds simulating explosions, and I wondered, not without fear and trembling, what they would think when they see their own kids 30 or 40 years from now doing something even more removed from nature. Would they rhapsodize and say, "Those were the days, when we pounded those quaint keyboards—oh, yes, we used them then—and zapped one another while outside rain fell"?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Lacson's court tussle: lose one, win others

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Panfilo Lacson recently filed a motion before the Supreme Court seeking a speedy ruling on whether or not to authorize the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case in which he was earlier implicated. His move was interesting, for earlier he had fought the decision of the Department of Justice to raise that case to the Supreme Court. The reading among lawyers I talked to is that the senator fears that any further delay would "dilute" the ruling with the inputs of the newest Supreme Court justices appointed by President Macapagal—Justices Renato Corona and Alice Martinez—both of whom he suspects would rule unfavorably against him. Lacson seems confident that the impending Supreme Court ruling without inputs from the two newest justices would be favorable to him, and he apparently doesn't want his good fortune to run out. With reason.

* * *

DOJ sources recently told me that for the first time in the long history of the DOJ, their prosecutors have been slapped with restraining orders on three separate cases. This is said to have demoralized the prosecutors.

Interestingly, all the three cases involve Lacson directly or indirectly. One is the kidnapping and drugs case filed by Mary "Rosebud" Ong against Lacson and his men. Even before the DOJ could investigate the charges, Lacson's lawyers asked the Manila trial court to stop the investigation and the judge upheld them. The DOJ appealed the restraining order directly to the Supreme Court and its ruling is being awaited.

* * *

Then there's the Kuratong Baleleng case. The decision of the lower court to throw it out for alleged lack of witnesses was appealed by the DOJ to the Court of Appeals. The CA subsequently slapped an injunction, which the DOJ elevated to the Supreme Court. It is this ruling that Lacson's lawyers are now pressing the Supreme Court to rule on.

Finally there's the case involving the kidnapping and murder of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver before the Manila RTC. The DOJ moved to amend the information it had earlier filed because other personalities, including some officials who had served under Lacson in the PNP, such as Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, were later implicated by witnesses. The RTC judge, however, denied the DOJ's motion to amend, prompting the DOJ to elevate it to the CA. Last week, the CA upheld the DOJ motion—the first setback for Lacson's people, but their lawyers asked the Supreme Court to issue a TRO. Despite last week's setback, it looks as if Lacson is really quite *malakas* with the courts.

* * *

There's a big quarrel now among the members of Congress over how to divide the pork barrel projects in the Department of Public Works and Highways' 2002 budget among the legislative districts. Complaints are being aired that some districts are being favored over others.

The spectacle of Congress members fighting over pork is being viewed with scorn by citizens, prompting the lawmakers to defend the pork. I caught Albay Rep. Francis Escudero on TV stressing that the members of Congress need those projects in order to get elected. Actually, Escudero was merely telling the truth in a rather blunt manner.

* * *

I ran into Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita, whose three terms as Batangas representative ended last May 2001. (His daughter and former legislative assistant, Aileen Ermita-Buhain, 32, wife of Philippine Olympic Committee president Eric Buhain replaced him. Aileen won a resounding victory over her father's former opponent, former Nasugbu Mayor Charito Apacible, winning in seven out of eight municipalities in the district. Her over 20,000 vote margin was a big improvement over her father's own margin in 1992, which was only 9,300 votes.) I asked Ermita how his daughter fare despite being a political neophyte, and he pointed out that her battle cry was "*Ipagpapatuloy ko ang ginawa ni Papa.*"

Ermita said that for nine years he made a regular accounting to his constituents of the projects he brought home to them. To the outsider, these may not be too impressive, he said, but to the people back home, they meant a lot. For instance, a waiting shed in sitio Balay Tigi, where the people live on charcoal-making, means they and their *uling* won't get wet while awaiting transportation to the town. Having an artesian well means that some people in Batangas, who in this age of space exploration, still drew water from the river, will have clean water sources.

Ermita stressed to me that what this all boils down to is that "real politics on the ground is for the representative to bring home the goodies."

* * *

If you're looking for things to do this summer, watch the sunset over Manila Bay, when the sun is at its most fiery and so spectacular. (The best places to do this are from the patio of the Westin Plaza or atop the CCP terrace.) Or fly a kite in some open spaces, such as the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Or you can listen to the immortal music of George Gershwin in a special concert this Saturday, May 11 at the Stars of Giorgio's restaurant in the Equitable PCI-Bank Bldg., Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Dinner is at 8 p.m. and the concert proper is at 9:15 p.m. The dinner-concert, costing P800 per head, is presented by that tireless impresario of classical music, Chola Navarro, who refuses to give up promoting our classical artists. This Saturday Chola will feature popular classical singer Josephine Roces-Chavez rendering such songs as "The Man I Love," "I've Got a Crush on You," "Summertime," "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and "Embraceable You."

Who pays, and who profits?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EARLY in her stint as director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Lucy Lazo noticed that some Tesda personnel made it a point to personally greet applicants wishing to become overseas performing artists who went to take the academic test. "They would stand by the doorway and personally hand examtakers their pencils. At first, I was impressed by their zealousness," Lazo laughs at her naiveté. "It was only later that I discovered that the pencils had masking tape wound around them, with the answers to the questions written on the tape."

Seeking to put a stop to the practice, Lazo had the order of the questions altered or "rumbled." The result? "Fifty percent of those taking the academic test failed," she reports grimly.

Later, Lazo would discover other forms of cheating and corruption that ran rampant either within Tesda itself or in some testing venues and among some testing officers who evaluated applicants for skills in dancing or singing.

According to sources within the overseas entertainment industry, a passing grade in academics costs P1,000 to P3,000; a passing grade for the skills test runs up to P7,000 for non-appearance or lower for a one-week singing practice. Some testing officers allegedly ask from P10,000 to P15,000 per singer or production talent for a passing grade. Another illegal fee (between P2,500 and P4,000) exacted from talents is supposedly for an "endorsement number" so that one would be "qualified" for the issuance of an Artists Record Book from the POEA, a requirement for a visa from the Japanese Embassy.

Another onerous practice has been the issuance of "volume endorsements" by testing officers, who endorse a particular testing venue for groups of applicants. From the profits made on the charge of P900 per talent, the venue owner supposedly reserves a cut for the testing officer.

* * *

LAZO sent a team of trusted Tesda employees around the various testing venues to check not only the veracity of information provided Tesda but also on the conditions under which the applicants undergo skills testing. While some were indeed legitimate studios and rehearsal venues, many others were little more than "hole-in-the-wall" videoke joints, clubs and even motels.

And given the "power" that the testing officers wield over the future of the talents, and the lack of talent of many of the applicants, one would have to seriously doubt if the evaluation was done each time with utmost seriousness and a desire to uphold even the barest minimum of artistic standards.

It was to correct the serious defects in this corrupt system that Lazo worked with the DOLE and POEA to streamline the entire system of deployment of overseas performing artists. The new system is contained in DOLE Department Order 10, whose implementation, though, has been stonewalled by a restraining order as a result of a case lodged by a group of recruiters and promoters.

* * *

GIVEN that the present rotten system evolved from the "good intentions" of some in government and even among NGOs who wanted to put up "roadblocks" to somehow minimize the number of women traveling abroad to work as entertainers, there are those who believe that it's about time government left the "business" of OPA deployment entirely.

After all, figures show that government, through Tesda "spent more than what was really earned in terms of fees from 53,340 OPAs who were tested." Another way of putting it is that government "spends about P4 million a year to generate 29,718 jobs (half the number of 59,436 OPAs deployed each year since each contract is good for only six months), which pays an average of $300 to $500 a month or a yearly remittance of $107 to $178.3 million." How much of this amount goes to government in terms of taxes?

A Tesda study recommends that the "special authority" to recruit and deploy OPAs be lifted and "treated by government like any other recruitment," bound by the pertinent laws and labor standards, with the agencies involved "able to compete in the area of standards for quality of workers, wages and working conditions, and social protective mechanisms." It also recommends the phasing out of testing and training centers for the artists sector which, far from assuring quality of talent and skills, have become a "money-making opportunity to the business-minded agents."

* * *

WHO pays for the profits made in this sector? Who bears the burden?

Clearly, the women "artists" pay for every centavo spent on them by the talent managers and recruiters. "Every bar of soap, every sachet of shampoo that the girls use, every costume that they wear (is paid for), including the homesickness, the pain of humiliation they suffer." And the threat to their health and survival, I might add.

But while the women, their families, the recruitment and deployment industry, and even the community may all benefit from the women's earnings, the nation pays the ultimate price. "The consequence of shame and embarrassment that the Philippines as a nation suffers because we have to send young girls to ply their beauty and youth in many a sleazy joint or bar in Japan and other Asian countries, is difficult to put a price on or, (it) does not have a price tag yet," says the Tesda study.

"While all the sectors seem to benefit...this question begs a candid answer: Is this the development path the Philippines wants to take?" Is the "vaginal economy" the survival strategy of this country and government?

Healing and confidentiality at Heart of Mary Villa

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A GOOD Shepherd nun (someone I know very well and highly esteem) at the Heart of Mary Villa in Malabon called me yesterday to express her sentiments on the front-page news stories on priests whose relationships with women have caused pregnancies and heartaches. The stories she was referring to were the ones that mentioned the Heart of Mary Villa as a place where pregnant but unwed girls and women could go.

This is true: unwed, pregnant girls and women stay there until a little after they have given birth, when they are strong enough physically and emotionally to go out and face the world. **This** is not new, **this** is no secret. HMV, as the place is familiarly called, has been serving women in crisis since the 1950s.

HMV and the Good Shepherd nuns in it are not the only ones that do this. There are several institutions in the country that do similar work. And this is not the only work the Good Shepherd nuns do. (They were founded in France in 1835.) They have a variety of ministries: With indigenous communities, urban poor, farmers, abused women and children. With the wounded, the rejected, the least, the lost. Name it.

Something about the way the stories were presented in print and on TV worried those who run HMV. "For those who understand our work, it's no problem," Sister said. She was concerned that HMV might be known as simply a hiding place and that the ministry be perceived as an effort to shield erring Church men. That is not what work in HMV is all about. It's about healing.

I should know. I had worked—as a practicing psychologist—with some of these women in distress many years ago. (I was on my way to becoming a Good Shepherd nun. So there.) I had met some who were on their way to HMV and helped process their admission by administering a series of psychological tests. Some of them were young, innocent, vulnerable. A good number were professionals, with flourishing careers but who got themselves into messy relationships with men who were either married, unmarried or with no intention to marry.

HMV is not a sad, secret place. Many beautiful things have happened to the women and their babies who passed through there. Two years ago, I wrote a long reunion story about a mother, now Canada-based, who had stayed at HMV and the son she gave up for adoption more than 20 years ago. The nun who helped reunite them mentioned to me that the psychological evaluations I had written on some of the girls and women who had spent time there were still intact. They now form part of the confidential files.

Confidentiality is paramount in institutions like HMV and other crisis centers. This does not mean that erring/abusing parties could go scot-free. Legal matters, adoption/taking home of babies, paternity issues, etc. are taken up in the counseling process.

Surely, a number of women whom priests got pregnant have found their way to HMV. Like those who have fallen victim to politicians, their bosses, their own fathers, uncles, brothers, neighbors, strangers and trusted friends. Like those who simply lost their heads for a brief, passionate moment or during a teenage hormone rush.

If there have not been too many "priests' victims" at HMV, it could be that the girls/women concerned did not need to go there. Now many probably don't feel the need to "stay away" somewhere, others preferring to openly carry the ripening fruit of their relationship or eventually marrying the "Fathers" of their offspring.

On the contrary, it is usually these putative "Fathers" who go away or are sent somewhere, usually abroad where they have houses, if they belong to a religious congregation. Is this the way to deal with the problem? It is scandalous.

A front-page photo in yesterday's INQUIRER showed a green gate with the words "Good Shepherd Convent" and "Heart of Mary Villa." It showed a young boy (the son of someone working there) walking in front. The caption said: "What secrets lurk behind the gates of this charity institution established to take care of unwed mothers, including those who had sexual relations with Catholic priests?"

Secrets? Lurk? It's confidentiality, Sister explained. And it applies to **all**, in a counselor-counselee relationship, in ministries with the wounded and lost. Not only in cases of priests and people in high places. It is the victims, not the abuser, who need protection and shielding, until they are strong again to rise and fight.

Well, I explained to Sister that when the media bang at the gate, someone better say something instead of nothing. That way, the media do not feed on the "mystery" and the "lurking secret."

But I should stress here that the recent tempest in the Church was really about pedophile priests who sexually abuse the young—boys mostly. Pedophiles are sick people with problems. Priests who get women pregnant are not pedophiles, they have problems with their vows—not only of celibacy. And this is another matter that has become a sequel to the pedophilia problem/crime within the Church.

There is also rape, abuse and molestation of women, yes. But most "priestly" relationships are between two consenting adults. Priests seduce women but women also seduce priests. Then it takes two to make a baby. Father fathers a child so where does mother go?

The point the nun was trying to stress is that HMV is not a "secret" hidden place suddenly discovered as the media seem to portray it to be. It sure is a haven for all sorts of women who need time to think things over and set things right for themselves, their families and babies. But it is not there to serve the interest of erring priests or a way for them to get out of the fix.

No way, Jose. No way, *Padre*.

Where's home?

YOUNGBLOOD

Natasha de Guzman

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ANOTHER night in Fukuoka. A night to be spent watching the waves break in the vast sea, and admiring the twilight engulfing the sky with colors and shadows—dark, dark shadows.

I've been away from home for more than two months now, and still the vastness of the sky, the cool wind from the sea of Kyushu and the pale light from the stars provide me little comfort. Knowing there is still 10 weeks left before I will see the sunset from the shores of my own country deepens my sadness. I tell myself I am missing my home and wishing to go back.

But where is my home?

Is it in Romblon, where I lived until I was around 4 years old? Is my home there with my lola, who raised me and told me stories about their life during the war, and taught me nuggets of wisdom that sounded like vague puzzles when I was young? Is it somewhere there between the coconut trees and the beaten path leading to the river in the town where only the rich has electricity and watching a movie means sitting before a television set powered by batteries?

Or is it in the different boarding houses in Manila where my mom and I used to live after leaving my father, who gambled away my mother's earnings and who came home late at night and beat her up? Is it in relatives' houses in Las Piñas, Makati, Marikina, Bulacan and Cavite who complained day in and day out about the rising costs of food and electricity and water and how some people living with their family weren't contributing enough?

Is it in Cebu where I studied college, living on my own, learning to fend for myself, and loving the moon for being my constant companion and being the only sure thing in the world?

Is it in the shores of Dumaguete to where my brother was deported after he flunked several subjects and lived like a prince, getting a monthly allowance while wasting his life away?

Is it in Bohol where my father took all of us one Christmas and brought us to a beach without checking if we had enough money to go back to the city, and so drenched by the rain, we had to wait for someone who would give us a free ride back to the hotel?

Is it on the ship where we spent one New Year going back from Romblon to Manila? Or is it on the bus where we spent one Christmas going back from Batangas to Makati?

Or is home in any of the countless hotels we have stayed in as we went to different places? (No, we did not go to different places to look at interesting sites but because there was no other place we could stay for so long.)

So tell me, my moon, is home on the 11th floor of the office where I work until early morning and from where I take long cold walks to an empty room in yet another boarding house? Is it here in a foreign country where I have to learn new technology and a new language, and wake up every day to strange sounds and faces and places and culture?

My moon doesn't answer. I think only the waves and the wind hear my musings. So tonight, I will sleep tight, and from tomorrow onwards, I will bring my home with me wherever I go.

Natasha de Gusman, 21, works for a software company based in Cebu. She went to Japan for technology and language training.

Where are the angels?

C. delos Santos

SOMEONE once said that angels are sent by God to roam the Earth. So when I look at the faces of people on the streets, with their blank stares devoid of even a hint of joy, I find wonder where all the angels have gone.

When I was a sophomore in college, I often passed by an old man in the jeepney terminal at the back of Jollibee near Philcoa. The thin man, who was probably in his 70s, lived under the shade of the mango tree in the corner of the parking lot. He slept on cardboards laid out on the cold earth and cooked food in tin cans, which might have come from the garbage heap just a few yards away from what to him was home. He was so unclean, and I often saw him sitting there as he scratched his legs which were covered with black grease and dirt. He cleaned the area every morning and collected plastic cups and boxes for a few bucks which he used to buy food.

Since I had to join a long queue of students waiting for a ride to school every day, seeing the old man doing his rounds was a part of my mornings that year. Because he usually worked as silently as possible and he swept the garbage near our feet carefully as we stood in line, people just ignored him. But sometimes, he would get a hamburger or some grocery goods and money from some kindhearted people. A friend of mine even gave him a blanket and a mug. One day, I saw him in a new shirt which, I assumed, was another gift from a passerby.

Once I cooked *tinola* for him and gave him a spoon and fork since I had noticed that he was eating with plastic spoons from nearby fast-food stalls. He just smiled when I gave him that simple fare, and that was enough to put me in a better mood.

The sheer pleasure of giving made me wish I could help him more. But as a student, I was limited by my small allowance. So I could only afford to give him little treats, usually food that I handed to him before taking the ride home.

During the Christmas holidays in 2000, I thought I'd give him a basket of goodies for Christmas. But then I had to give gifts to family and friends, spend for parties, etc. Before I knew it, the planned gift was forgotten. I took my Christmas vacation with a promise to at least bring clothes for the old man when I got back in January. I was feeling a little bit guilty that I had nothing for him that Christmas and I wanted to make up for it.

When I came back to the city in January, I had with me a plastic bag filled with Dad's shirts. At the first opportunity, I looked for the old man in the parking lot. He was gone!

For days I kept looking for a sign of him as I lined up for the ride to school. I thought that perhaps he just went to his real home for Christmas or maybe he went to some other place where cardboards were abundant. But I kept hoping that I would be able to give him the shirts, however late they were for a Christmas gift.

In March, I still had the shirts, and my hope of ever seeing him again had faded.

I imagined the old man spending Christmas Day alone. If only I had given him some groceries, he could have had a filling meal that night. If only I had given him a sweater, he would have felt warmer when the Yuletide chill was reminding everyone to find warmth in the love of others. If only I knew that I would never see him again, I would have given him those things that I now wanted him to have. But I realized that sometimes being late could sometimes mean never being there at all.

Where did all the angels go that Christmas when the old man was probably cold, hungry and alone? Maybe just like me, they were in their own heaven, smiling and feasting in the comfort of their folded wings.

C. delos Santos, 20, is an incoming senior at the University of the Philippines in Diliman

A genius for mediocrity

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE HEADLINE story in the April 30 issue of the INQUIRER began thus:

"The removal from office of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the revocation of Joseph Estrada's 'leave of absence' were among the points raised by political groups and personalities from the Left and Right who met yesterday to discuss ways of changing the system."

As usual those who are clamoring for change in the political system, or those who want to replace the present leaders with new ones, are barking up the wrong tree.

I have said many times before and I'm saying it again, it is not the system of government or the present leadership that's the problem. It is the consciousness of the entire Filipino people.

Even if we change the system of government, or change completely the people now running it, if the consciousness of the people does not change, nothing will change.

Why is it so hard for us to realize the simple and obvious fact that no amount of shifting political systems or of changing political leadership will ever make us a better and more progressive nation?

Even if we change the entire personnel of the political bureaucracy, from the president down to the lowest government functionary, if we do not change the consciousness of our people, we will go back to our old ways of doing things in no time at all. Name me one politician who will sponsor or support a program that will mean his political doom but will be good for his country as a whole?

Let us stop fooling ourselves. Let's stop harping on the negative aspects of our system and, for once, let's look at the positive side and magnify that side. Let us for once talk about what's good in it, rather than what is bad. No political system is perfect. It is the people running it that determine its worth.

We had two golden opportunities in the recent past to forever change our character and values as a people. And we bungled both times! The first was the declaration of martial law. Everybody obeyed the laws for a while. Then abuses took place and we went back to our "normal selves."

The second was the first People Power Revolution. We bungled that one too. We could never sustain a golden opportunity for a lasting change. We always manage to destroy our own good ideas.

We have, as a people, a genius for mediocrity. Let's face it and do something about it!

—JAIME T. LICAUCO, 96 Don Rufino Ave., Tahanan Village, Parañaque City

Power, religion and sexual abuse

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SEVERAL readers have written to ask why I have not written about the "sex scandals" currently rocking the Roman Catholic Church.

Frankly, the reason I haven't gotten to this topic is that I find it difficult to do so. There are just so many issues involved here, and given the space we have for a column, I'm afraid I might end up with a muddled discussion. I agree though that it is important to speak out, so let me try with at least two columns, with more to follow if readers feel it's needed.

For starters, it's important to untangle the knots and strands in this raging controversy, just to make sure we don't mix up the issues. A few definitions are in order.

The most controversial, but not necessarily the core, issue in these "sex scandals" is that of pedophile priests. Pedophilia refers to a sexual preference for pre-pubescent children. Many of the cases of sexual abuse in the United States actually involve ephebophilia, which is a sexual preference for adolescents, roughly aged 13 to 17. This distinction between pedophilia and ephebophilia is important because criminal liability depends on legal and cultural definitions of "adulthood," "maturity" and the age of consent.

Because most of the victims of pedophile Catholic priests have been males, there has been a tendency to equate homosexuality with pedophilia. Homosexuality is a preference for someone of the same sex. Most homosexuals, as with heterosexuals, have no sexual interest in children.

The newspaper reports have generally been "polite," using terms like "sexual molestation." In reality, we are talking about a whole range of sexual abuse, from fondling to outright penetrative sex, including what we would call rape.

Why go through all these definitions? Because I find that local press reports have lumped all the different "sex scandals" together. There's a lot of talk, for example, about priests who marry or who have regular sexual partners, which is totally different from the cases of child sexual abuse.

Similarly, local media people often refer to Spanish friars and their liaisons with local women. Again, we have to be careful here. It would be wrong to presume that all our Spanish *mestizos* and *mestizas* were products of rape back in history, involving a friar (or, as some of my friends would assert with feigned indignation, a bishop or cardinal).

The message coming through from these reports is that the Catholic priests' vow of celibacy is to blame for sexual abuse. That's not very logical. There was an excellent INQUIRER editorial two weeks ago which correctly pointed out that pedophilia is more of a disorder affecting even married individuals and that to suggest marriage for priests as a solution to sexual abuse is to trivialize marriage. I'd add that this proposal degrades women because it reduces them to outlets for the priest's sexual energies.

Blaming celibacy for sexual abuse obscures the main issue, which is sexual abuse. I have done some counseling work with NGOs and will say that even if that experience has been limited, I am appalled by the number of people who say they have been sexually molested as children, not necessarily by priests.

Dr. Margarita Holmes, the well-known clinical psychologist and sex therapist, has had more experience in terms of patients and people writing in for advice. She tells me that she, too, has heard from many Filipinos who were sexually abused as children, but has had only one case, a woman, who said she was abused by a priest.

Does this mean sexual abuse by priests is rare? It's hard to say. I suspect there is much more of imposed silence in the Philippines than in the United States, especially when the Catholic Church is involved. Nevertheless, I feel it is callous to dismiss the issue just because there are "only" a few cases. Each abused child is a cause for concern.

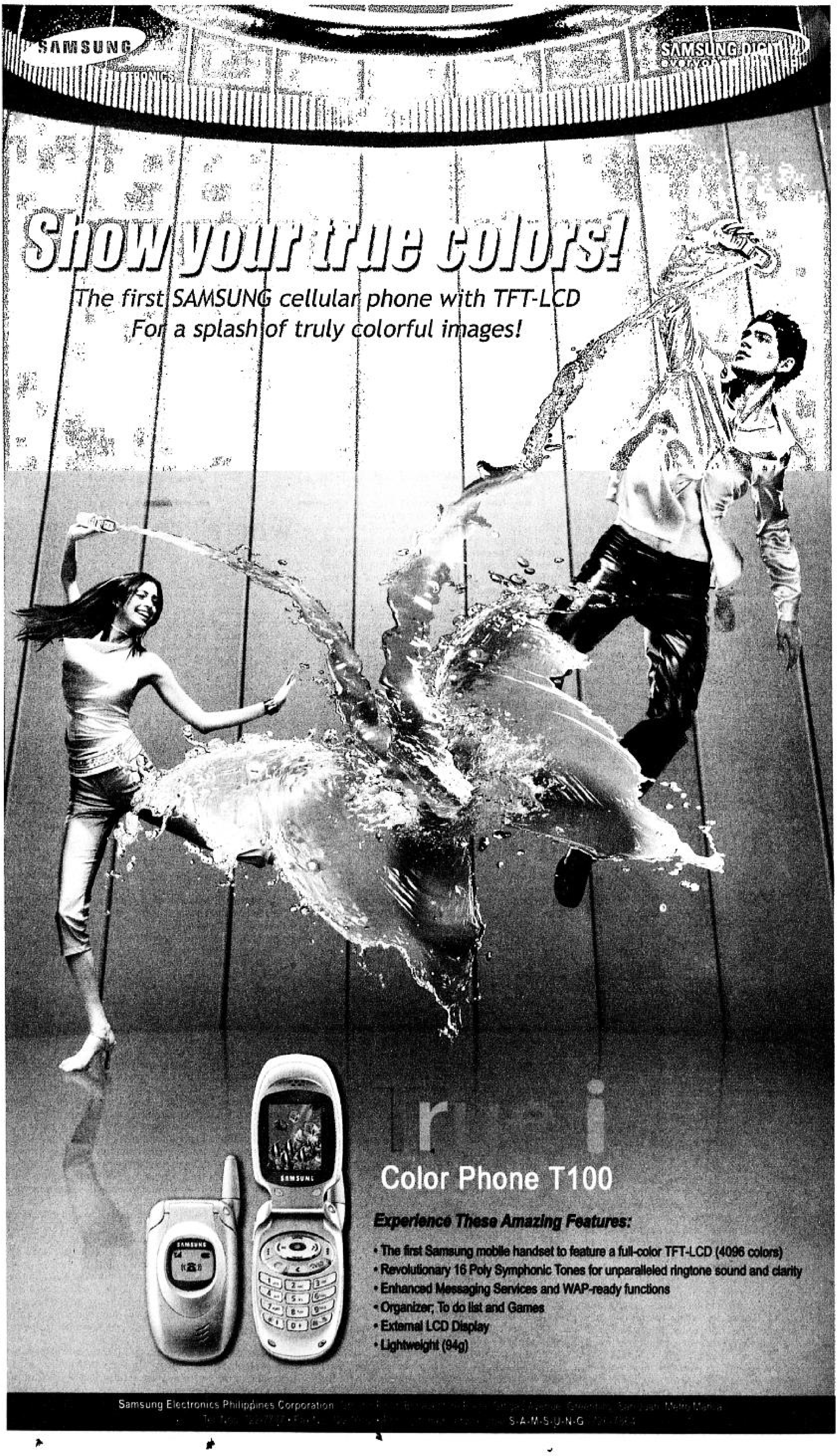
From the reports that we have coming out in the media and from counseling work, the picture we have right now is that sexual abuse of young Filipinos, both male and female, tend to occur most frequently in three of society's most sacred institutions: the family, schools and faith-based institutions.

Within the family, we may have male members—fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, even older brothers—who believe they have complete rights over the women and children in the household, and that includes sexual rights. Patriarchal values dominate in these settings and the extent of abuse here is probably much more serious than we care to admit.

Another setting where child sexual abuse tends to occur are schools, where teachers (and this includes some priests) abuse students. The predator, at least in the Philippines, is always male but the victims can be male or female. Here it is not so much patriarchy than an abuse of a relationship of trust, especially since students tend to hero-worship their teachers. Again, I suspect there is much more happening here than we dare to acknowledge.

Finally we have the faith-based institutions. Much of the attention has focused on Catholic priests, but I suspect there have been incidents as well with the religious from other faiths. As with school settings, there is an abuse here of trust relationships, especially because religious people are so often seen as counselors. Even more importantly, the abuser may use his sacred aura to stake his sexual claims, playing especially on the Filipino's high regard for the religious.

Where do we go from here? The INQUIRER has tried to stimulate thoughtful dialogue through its editorial on celibacy, and through last Sunday's full-page spread, featuring one woman's account of her abuse by a priest, and views from a therapist, a Catholic bishop and a Catholic sister. We need now to think of ways to prevent future incidents as well as to bring justice to those who have already been victimized. On Tuesday I will talk about what we might want to do. I will also include phone numbers which you can call for assistance.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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Karachi suicide bombing kills 10

VOLUNTEERS remove an injured man after a car bomb destroyed a bus in Karachi. REUTERS

KARACHI, Pakistan—A suicide bomber blew up a shuttle bus in Karachi, Pakistan, on Wednesday, killing nine French workers and the Pakistani driver, police said. The blast injured 34 other people, 16 of them French. An 11th person, believed to be the suicide bomber also was killed.

The bus was parked outside the Sheraton Hotel when the bomb went off, tearing a large crater in the road and destroying nearby vehicles.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing, but suspicion fell on militant Islamic groups angry at Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's support for the US-led coalition's war in neighboring Afghanistan.

Several foreigners in Pakistan have been killed in brutal attacks claimed by radical Islamists, who favored Afghanistan's collapsed Taliban regime and protested Pakistan's support for the coalition war on terror.

Gen. Rashid Quereshi, a government spokesperson, called the explosion an act of terrorism and an attempt to terrorize foreign nationals in Pakistan.

"Those who did this were enemies of the civilized world," Quereshi said in a telephone interview. He also said Pakistan would not falter in its support for the US-led coalition's war in neighboring Afghanistan.

French dead

"Pakistan will continue its support to the international community in the war against terrorism and these terrorist acts will not deter our resolve against terrorism," he said.

The French dead were engineers building a second submarine that Pakistan had bought from France, Pakistani government officials said. They were working at the Karachi seaport for a state-owned French marine construction company, the French foreign ministry said in Paris.

Police said the explosion appeared to have been caused by a second vehicle and was likely a suicide bomber.

"We have recovered a charred body from a car," said Sindh provincial police chief Sayed Kamal Shah. Several vehicles were destroyed in the powerful explosion that left a 3-meter deep crater in the road.

The 45-seat bus was parked outside the Sheraton Hotel when the explosion occurred. Shah said in the first round of questioning of hotel workers they were told that the bus was taking German nationals to the Arabian Sea Port from the hotel.

The New Zealand and Pakistani cricket teams canceled a five-day match they were to start playing in Karachi on Wednesday. The two teams were staying in a hotel across the street from the hotel.

Jeff Crowe, manager of the New Zealand team, told reporters they are going back to their country. *AP*

Indon SC judge's killers convicted

JAKARTA—Two men allegedly hired by former dictator Suharto's son to kill a Supreme Court Judge were found guilty Wednesday and sentenced to a lifetime behind bars.

Presiding Judge Amiruddin Zakaria issued a sentence heavier than the 14-year imprisonment sought by prosecutors. Defense lawyers said they would appeal.

The judge's decision is seen as a significant step forward for a court system that has historically sided with Indonesia's elite. It also bolsters the prosecution's case against Suharto's son, Tommy Suharto, who is on trial for masterminding the assassination of Judge Syafiuddin Kartasasmita.

The assassination "shocked the people and law enforcers" as it was a "premeditated murder of a Supreme Court Judge who then died in a tragic way," said Zakaria.

The men, Noval Hadad and Mulawarman, were convicted of killing Kartasasmita as he drove to work on July 26 last year. A third man, accused of recruiting the two men, is also on trial.

Three witnesses testified that they saw the two convicted men leaving the scene of the killing with guns in their hands.

Defense attorneys countered unsuccessfully that two other men killed the judge on orders from a mysterious man known only as "Frans." *AP*

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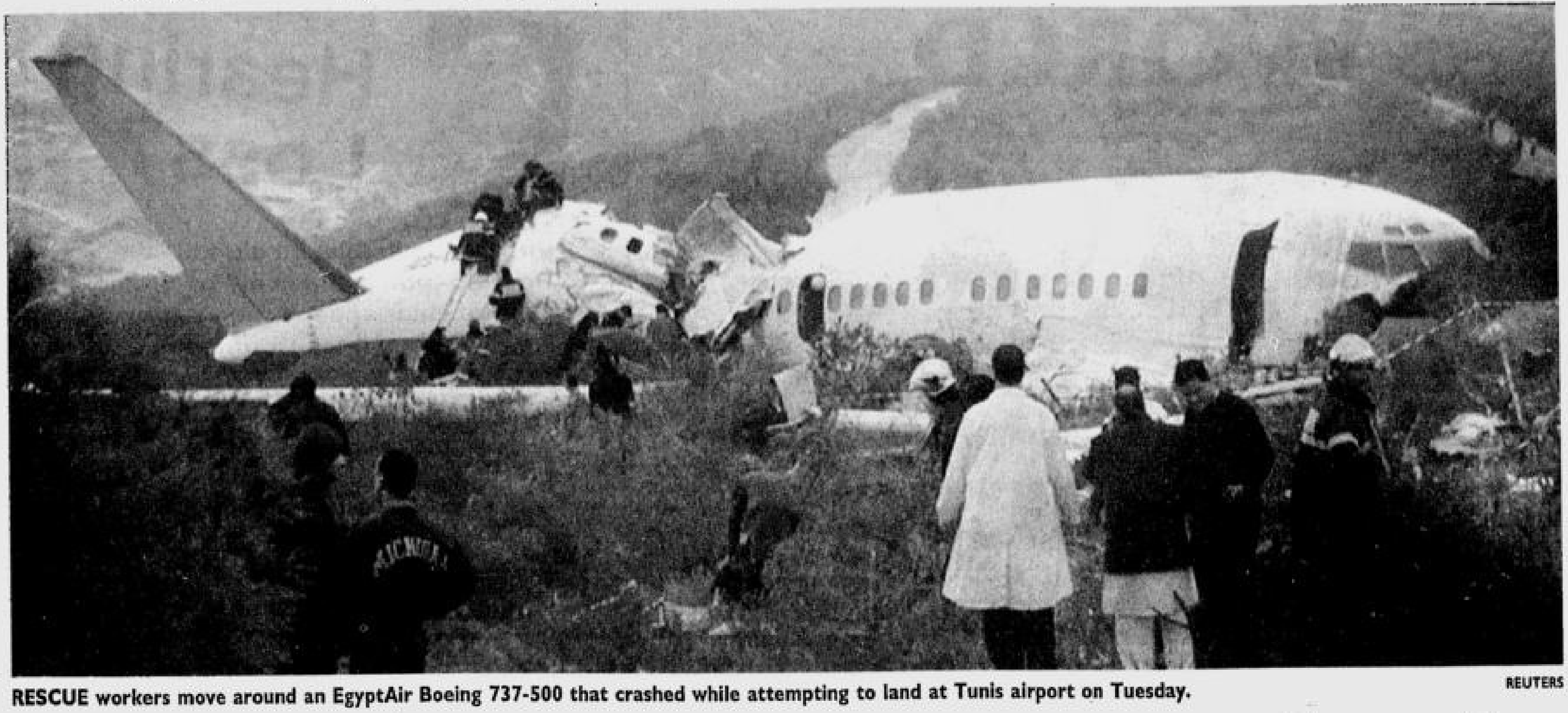

RESCUE workers move around an EgyptAir Boeing 737-500 that crashed while attempting to land at Tunis airport on Tuesday. REUTERS

Jet crashes in Tunisia; 18 dead

TUNIS, Tunisia—An EgyptAir flight jolted in the air and sparks surged through the cabin before the plane crashed as it tried to land in Tunis, said a survivor of the accident that killed at least 18 people.

The plane, a Boeing 737 carrying 62 people from Cairo, nearly split into two after ramming into a hill about six kilometers from the Tunis-Carthage airport on Tuesday.

EgyptAir issued a statement saying 18 people had died and 25 were injured. Authorities at the Tunis airport said several people walked away unhurt.

Egyptian officials headed to Tunisia on an overnight flight to conduct an investigation. Families of those on board the crashed plane were to travel with them.

The weather was foggy and rainy at the time of the crash and the control tower had lost contact with the plane a few seconds before it went down, just after a distress call from the pilot, according to the national news agency, TAP.

A Tunisian woman, Narjess Hadada, said the plane encountered turbulence as it prepared to land.

"We felt jolts in the plane, and a member of the crew reassured us that it was only clouds. Suddenly, we saw sparks in the plane and then it hit the ground," she said.

Hadada grabbed her two children and dashed out of the plane through a huge gaping hole left by the crash. "I feel like I've been born a second time," she said.

Other witnesses said the pilot released fuel shortly before the plane went down, a move that may have saved lives by preventing the wreckage from catching on fire.

Mohamed Amine, the head flight attendant, told the AP he believes "bad weather and bad visibility" were at the root of the accident.

Amine spoke at Ariana Hospital in Tunis, where he was being treated for minor injuries.

EgyptAir's vice president for safety, Shaker Qilada, denied reports that the plane was making an emergency landing.

"It was a normal landing approach," Qilada said in Cairo.

Minister of Aviation Ahmed Shafeeq held an emergency meeting with top aviation officials in Cairo.

EgyptAir initially said 63 people were on board but later lowered the number to 62 and corrected the nationalities of some of those on board. The 54 passengers included 20 Egyptians, 17 Tunisians, five Pakistanis, three Algerians, three Jordanians, two Chinese, one Briton, one Saudi, one Palestinian and one Libyan. The entire crew was Egyptian.

Poor visibility at the time of the crash was worsened by a sandy wind blowing from the Sahara desert. The sandy wind is known in Arabic as "khamsin," a name rooted in the Arabic word for the number 50. It refers to 50 days each year when winds blow sand from the desert, creating a suffocating, dirty blanket of air that hangs over the sky.

On Oct. 31, 1999, an EgyptAir Boeing 767 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the eastern United States, killing all 217 people aboard.

Before 1999, it had been 23 years since EgyptAir had a major crash. In 1976, an EgyptAir plane crashed during approach to the Bangkok, Thailand, airport, killing 72 passengers and crew members. *AP*

FAMILY members mourn at the Dalian airport Wednesday, after a China Northern Airlines MD82 plane plunged into the sea off the northeast coastal city in Liaoning province on Tuesday night. REUTERS

No survivors in China crash

DALIAN, China—All 112 people aboard a Chinese jetliner that crashed into the sea off China's northeastern coast are dead, the airline announced Wednesday as rescuers in boats gave up a search for survivors that had lasted through the night.

The China Northern Airlines plane on a domestic flight from Beijing crashed late Tuesday just short of its destination in Dalian, a major port city.

"The 103 passengers and nine crew aboard the airliner all perished," said a letter issued by the airline that expressed condolences to the families of the dead.

Rescuers pulled scores of bodies out of Dalian Bay on Wednesday. The airline's brief statement didn't say whether all the bodies were found. Chinese officials declined comment.

Authorities said they were still looking for the plane's "black box" flight data and voice recorders in the bay, which is six to 12 meters deep.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-82 went down at 9:40 p.m. about 20 km from the Dalian airport after the pilot reported a fire, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The majority of passengers were Chinese, most of whom lived in Dalian, China Northern said. It said eight of those aboard were foreigners—three Japanese and one each from Singapore, India, France, Hong Kong and South Korea.

It was the second fatal crash in a month of a Chinese airliner and came despite extensive efforts to improve China's air safety after a string of fatal accidents in the 1990s.

More than 40 vessels joined the search, the Sea Rescue Center in Dalian said. Fishermen searched through the night using searchlights, joined later by two Chinese naval vessels.

"We sent every boat we could find," said a Dalian port authority official who gave only his surname, Liu. "When they heard the news, fishermen set off in their boats."

A policeman at an oil pier run by the Dalian Petrochemical Plant said he saw the plane flying in low circles just before the crash. *AP*

Mailbox terrorist captured

RENO, Nevada—A 21-year-old college student was charged in connection with the five-state string of mailbox pipe bombs after he was arrested on a windswept highway following a manhunt that stretched across half the country.

Luke J. Helder of Pine Island, Minnesota, was captured after dropping a gun out his car window, the FBI said. At least one other gun was found in the car, and bomb squads found explosive devices, possibly pipe bombs, said Richard Kirkland, Nevada Public Safety director.

Helder was stopped more than 2,400 km from the Illinois communities where some of the first bombs and their telltale anti-government notes were found. The terrorism spree alarmed thousands of rural Americans and raised fresh concern about the safety of the mail in the wake of last fall's deadly anthrax outbreak.

Residents in several states were asked to leave open their roadside mailboxes to give nervous letter carriers a clear look inside.

Helder's license plate and car description had been broadcast nationwide Tuesday, a motorist on Interstate 80 spotted Helder's westbound vehicle and tipped off authorities. He was pulled over about 80 km east of Reno after a 64.36-km chase.

Negotiations

"The FBI contacted him on his cell phone and started negotiations with him, and asked us to back off," said Major Rick Bradley of the Nevada Highway Patrol. "Then he slowed down."

FBI agent Terry Hulse said Helder telephoned his parents during the chase and was patched through to an FBI negotiator. He said Helder stayed on the phone with the FBI after pulling over east of Fernley and volunteered to surrender if he was not harmed.

"He requested not to be tackled," Trooper Alan Davidson said. "He surrendered the gun and was taken into custody without incident."

Helder, who was expected to be jailed in Reno, was charged by federal prosecutors in Iowa with using an explosive to maliciously destroy property affecting interstate commerce and using a destructive device to commit a crime of violence. The charges carry penalties of up to life in prison and fines of $250,000.

Specifically, US Attorney Charles W. Larson said Helder was responsible for the cuts and shrapnel wounds suffered Friday by Delores Werling, 70, of Tipton, Iowa. Other charges were expected.

The capture came just eight hours after the FBI issued an all-points bulletin for Helder and said it wanted to question him about the 18 pipe bombs found since Friday. His father, at the family's home in Minnesota, also pleaded with Helder: "Please don't hurt anyone else . . . You have the attention you wanted."

Six people—four letter carriers and two residents—were wounded by bombs left in mailboxes in Illinois and Iowa. Twelve other bombs found in Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas did not explode.

'Attention getters'

Most of the bombs were accompanied by anti-government propaganda warning that more "attention getters" were on the way.

FBI agent Jim Bogner in Omaha, where the investigation is centered, refused to say how Helder had become part of the case.

But Tuesday, a college newspaper in Wisconsin said it gave the FBI a seven-page letter that was received over the weekend and signed with Helder's name. The letter was postmarked in Omaha on Friday—the day the first eight bombs were found, in Iowa and Illinois, and a day before eight more bombs turned up in Nebraska. *AP*

Lovers share liver

SINGAPORE—An actor donated part of his liver to save the life of his TV presenter girlfriend, whose critical illness was possibly a reaction to taking diet pills.

Gleneagles Hospital said the couple were in a stable condition early Wednesday after 12 hours of overnight surgery.

Andrea de Cruz, 27, suffered liver failure last week and physicians feared she would have died without a transplant, The Straits Times newspaper reported. Doctors theorized her sudden illness might have been caused by an unspecified weight-loss medication.

De Cruz's boyfriend Pierre Png, 29, had part of his liver removed after her mother and sister were ruled out as suitable donors.

"It was the most difficult decision of his life. But he was very clear about what he wanted," said De Cruz's brother-in-law Brian Pereira.

It was the first time in Singapore that a living nonrelative was allowed to donate part of his liver, the Ministry of Health said in a statement. *AP*

THREAT TO EUROPE

Iran making long-range missiles

WASHINGTON—Iran, with an assist from Russia and other countries, is developing a long-range missile that would give it the ability to strike Nato countries in Europe, a senior administration official says.

The Shahab-4 missile would initially have a 2,000 km range but anticipated upgrades would allow it to reach Italy, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Greece, according to the official.

The development is worrisome to US officials because Iran has been viewed by the state department as the world's most active terrorist country. President Bush has identified Iran among three "axis of evil" members, with Iraq and North Korea.

Despite the emerging capability, an Iranian attack against American allies in Europe is considered highly unlikely because most of these countries maintain normal ties with Tehran, which they believe can help moderate Iran's behavior.

Older generation Iranian missiles, including the Shahab-3, have shorter ranges and are capable of reaching Israel, Turkey and US troops in Saudi Arabia.

A US defense official said Tuesday the Shahab-3 has a mixed record in tests and isn't thought to be completely reliable.

Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani, quoted by Iran's state-run radio Tuesday, said Iran was taking steps to improve "the destructive power, accuracy and range" of the Shahab-3.

Iran seems increasingly confident about its military prowess. This was apparent when strains developed with Israel after Israel's interception in January of a shipment of Iranian weapons to Palestinian areas.

At one point, Shamkhani warned that if Israel "carries out any military action against Iran, the response will be beyond the imagination of any Israeli politician."

Iran's missile development is proceeding hand-in-hand with efforts to develop nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, US officials say.

The senior official, commenting on condition of anonymity, said Iran's military buildup cannot be justified as a defense against neighbor and longtime rival Iraq, pointing out that the mis

Turf war blamed for Church attack

QUIBDO, Colombia—The deaths of as many as 117 villagers inside a church is just the latest human horror in a vicious turf war between rebels and paramilitaries in which the military often appears a hapless bystander.

Underscoring its lack of control over wide swaths of this South American country, the military on Tuesday sought for the fifth straight day to reach the embattled village of Bojaya, reportedly strewn with corpses and with wounded awaiting evacuation.

Authorities, meanwhile, began reconstructing the events in Bojaya, where a mortar launched by guerrillas on Thursday crashed through the roof of a church where hundreds of villagers had taken refuge amid fighting between the rebels and paramilitaries. More than a third of those killed were children. *AP*

Minorities want in on reconciliation—Suu Kyi

RANGOON—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi says ethnic minority groups seeking more autonomy must be included in the national reconciliation process with Burma's military junta, an ethnic leader said Wednesday.

Burma comprises of several ethnic groups who fear democracy talks between Suu Kyi and the government will sideline their demands, which in the past have led to armed rebellions.

Khun Tun Oo, a leader of the Shan ethnic minority said Suu Kyi made her position clear during talks with leaders of Shan, Mon, Chin, Rakhine and Kokang ethnic parties hours after her release Monday from 19 months of house arrest.

"I'm happy with the assurance by Daw Suu to let the ethnic groups participate in the talks at an appropriate time," he said, using the honorific "Daw" to refer to the Nobel peace laureate.

The issue of ethnic autonomy is an added complication to the problem of restoring democracy in Burma, also known as Myanmar.

The democracy movement in Burma is dominated by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, most of whose members are majority Burmese as are the generals who have ruled the country for the last 40 years.

The Burmese comprise 68 percent of the 42 million population while eight major ethnic groups and 135 subgroups form much of the rest.

The ethnic minorities, who live mostly in Burma's eastern, northern and western border states maintain unique cultural identities.

Their insurgencies for political autonomy began after Burma's independence from Britain in 1948, but most of the groups have since reached autonomy deals with the government and ended their armed struggles. The Karen are the only major ethnic group still fighting. *AP*

Across the NATION

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 37° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 27°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/09/02

Gloria releases ₱10M for airport rehabilitation

TUGUEGARAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday announced the release of P10 million to start the rehabilitation of the airport in Nueva Vizcaya, which, she said, remains a sentimental structure for her late father, former President Diosdado Macapagal.

The announcement was made during the joint meeting with the President of the regional development council (RDC) and the regional peace and order council (RPOC) at the Cagayan provincial capitol here.

Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani said the P10 million would be more than enough to complete the concreting of the airport's 1,200-meter runway in Barangay Lantap in Bagabag town.

"The airport is close to the President's heart because it was her late father (during his term as president) who (pushed for) its development into an operational airport, from a mere airstrip during World War II," Agbayani said.

Ms Macapagal earlier said the improvement of the Bagabag airport is part of a master plan of the government to promote the Ifugao rice terraces as a premier tourist destination.

The Bagabag airport is the nearest drop-off point for visitors who travel by air in going to the tourist town of Banaue. From there, Banaue is just a one-and-a-half-hour drive through the Nueva Vizcaya-Ifugao-Mt. Province road.

MACAPAGAL

"Because of the President's show of concern (for the airport), we plan to rename the airport as Cong Dadong Macapagal Domestic Airport, in honor of her father," Agbayani said.

"Cong Dadong" was how the late President Macapagal was called by his best friend, the late former Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Jose Espino, Agbayani said.

After the runway, the next phase of its development includes the concreting of the 14,400-square meter tarmac, and the construction of a control tower and a fire station.

The cost of all these improvements would be around P87 million, Agbayani said.***Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Quest for land drives farmers to rebs

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY--A number of disenchanted agrarian reform beneficiaries in Negros Oriental have gone underground after they got tired of waiting to own their land.

Achilles Bolocboloc, vice president of the Negros Oriental Federation of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (Nofarbo), said 3 percent of about 4,000 federation members had joined either the New People's Army or the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

The number, he said, does not include non-Nofarbo members who took up arms.

He said many frustrated beneficiaries succumbed to the constant wooing by the rebels who promised to help them realize their dream of acquiring a piece of land.

"We could not blame them because it appeared that the government failed to fulfill its promise to distribute land. Some of us already died waiting," he said in Cebuano.

"Some even died fighting for the (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program), yet until now agrarian reform is still uncertain," he added.

But Bolocboloc gave assurances that despite the frustration, most of the farmers still want to continue the legal struggle in acquiring land.

Nofarbo President Marion Rubia said the agrarian reform in the country "is not moving."

He said several landholdings in Negros Oriental have long been covered by the CARP but the actual distribution of land to the beneficiaries was very slow, chaotic and has dislocated the beneficiaries.

He cited the case of the 320-hectare sugar and coconut plantation of Sarah Montilla in Barangay Hibaiyo, Guihulngan town, some 117 kilometers north of here.

In 1994, the property was placed under compulsory acquisition. In October 1996, a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) was issued to 114 beneficiaries but there was no actual possession of the land.

In May 1999, the Sugar Farm Industry (SFI) filed a petition before the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (Parad), seeking to nullify the CARP coverage of the property for lack of due process.

The SFI claimed to be the owner of the property after buying it from Montilla. The SFI said they did not know that the property was placed under the CARP because the notice from the Department of Agrarian Reform was sent to Montilla.

In September 1999, provincial agrarian reform adjudicator Vivian Maquiling ruled in favor of the SFI when she declared the CARP coverage of the property null and void. Her decision paved the way for a review of the names of the beneficiaries and the creation of a committee to do that.

Records of the Paro legal department showed that the committee identified 152 beneficiaries but not one of them was from the 114 who were earlier given CLOAs for the property.

The committee said the 114 were not qualified because they were not tenants, workers or actual tillers of the property.

The first batch of beneficiaries was angry at the decision, insisting that they should be included in the list of beneficiaries. This prompted the Paro to do another review, which further delayed the distribution of the property.

"The CARP is already 14 years old, yet they are still in the inclusion and exclusion proceeding. That is why many beneficiaries are already disgruntled," Rubia said.

He said there are other landholdings, which have been plagued by so many problems that greatly prejudiced the beneficiaries.

Execs plan study on marijuana

KAPANGAN, Benguet—Bothered by this town's image as a "marijuana country," officials here have decided to launch a study to find out why villagers prefer cultivating the prohibited plant.

The project, called "Understanding the Marijuana Problem," was formalized here Monday following its endorsement by elders and the municipal council.

"The study will be conducted at the grassroots level," said Mayor Rogelio Leon. "Our researchers will stay with the people for a specified period to gather data on the problem's socio-economic and geographical factors."

The towns of Kapangan, Bokod and Kibungan are reputed as Cordillera's "Golden Triangle" because these areas have become the major sources of marijuana in the country.

Since last year, police have conducted 10 raids on several villages where marijuana is grown. The biggest haul was made in May 2001 when 35,000 fully-grown marijuana plants, estimated to cost P5.2 million, were uprooted.

In June last year, police intercepted a shipment of 13 kilograms of marijuana intended for transport to Baguio City.

Senior Insp. Felix Sito, Kapangan police chief, said despite the raids, no planter has been arrested and charged in court.

Sito said it is difficult to arrest planters because they are usually alerted before police teams arrive.

"We cannot also charge any landowner because the marijuana plants are mostly planted in undeclared (or untitled) public forests," he said. ***Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

EMPLOYMENT

Job seekers take a look at listings of job vacancies posted by various agencies and companies at jobs fair organized by the Department of Labor and Employment in Southern Mindanao on Labor Day.

Robbers kill 4 gov't workers

By Alex Pal and Romy Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Four government workers from Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental were shot dead at 3:30 p.m. yesterday by two still unidentified suspects, in an apparent payroll robbery in Barangay Maninihon, Bayawan City, some 92 kilometers south of here.

Reports from Sta. Catalina identified the fatalities as municipal paymaster Librado Dagat; Serafin Dinsay, driver of the town's L-300 van; Winnie Yorong, an employee of the municipal treasurer's office, and Virgie Edreal, a government midwife who was just hitching a ride in the municipal van.

The victims were returning to Sta. Catalina after withdrawing some P372,000 from the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Bayawan City. The vehicle was traversing the national highway along Barangay Maninihon in Bayawan when they were stopped by two men in fatigue uniforms and who were armed with long firearms.

Bayawan is about 20 kilometers from Sta. Catalina.

Police said the holduppers commandeered the van and ordered the driver to proceed to Barangay Omod, which is about 5 kilometers from Maninihon.

Reports said the victims were then divested of the payroll money before they were shot. The suspects fled on two motorcycles, one of which was a black Honda with license plate TMX 155, in the direction of Mabinay town.

Soldiers brace for more attacks by NPA guerrillas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Government soldiers here are bracing for more attacks from communist rebels after a string of assassinations of suspected military informers and attacks on private firms that failed to pay the rebels' "revolutionary taxes."

Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, commanding officer of the Army's Task Group Panay that is in charge of internal security operations on the island, said Army detachments especially in the hinterlands have been strengthened and combat operations have been intensified in anticipation of rebel plans to attack soldiers.

"We expect them (rebels) to continue with their liquidation in the hinterland barangays and possibly attack detachments," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid, 3rd Infantry Division commander based in Jamindan, Capiz, earlier said the insurgency situation in Panay was not as bad as that on the other islands in the Visayas like Bohol and Negros which are also under his jurisdiction.

But NPA rebels have stepped up their attacks on suspected military informers in recent months after being inactive in recent years.

The rebels had killed at least six persons whom they accused of being military and police informers since late last year.

The latest victim was Ramon Eucare who was shot dead on April 24 by the NPA's Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Barangay Ambarihon, Tubungan town, 41 kilometers south of here.

The regional NPA unit, the Coronacion Chiva-Waling-Waling Command, also admitted burning a Ceres passenger bus worth P2.4 million in Barangay Banate, Pontevedra town in Capiz last April 19 after the company failed to pay "revolutionary taxes."

The rebels claimed that they had increased their armed strength and the number of areas they control in the past year.

Sodusta confirmed an earlier statement made by Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Philippine Army commanding general, that the rebels had embarked on a massive recruitment campaign on Panay to increase their ranks.

Dionisio recently visited the headquarters of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz.

Sodusta played down the reported campaign, saying only "young people were being misled" by the rebels. "They promise them with money and land but they end up frustrated," he said.

The Army also monitored the presence of top rebel leaders from Bohol in Panay.

Sodusta said the "consultants" had been going around the rebel units in the Visayas for coordination and meetings with local rebel leaders.

He said an additional 100 soldiers would be integrated in the existing Army units.

Currently, the Army has stationed the 12th Infantry Battalion and the 31st and 32nd Reconnaissance Company under the 3rd ID in Panay.

He, however, said the additional troopers are part of the regular recruitment of the Army and not in response to rebel attacks.

"They are replacements for casualties and retirees," Sodusta said.

Federal Army announces plan to sabotage Mindanao transpo

COTABATO CITY—The Indigenous Federal People's Army (IFPA) announced that it has resorted to "car traps" to press the government into establishing a federal state for Mindanao.

The IFPA, which has been blamed for a series of explosions here and other parts of the country some weeks ago, said the use of sharp objects to paralyze vehicles using national highways in Mindanao areas was the consensus reached by various "ancestral domain groups."

Fedrev, who claims to be the spokesperson of IFPA, told radio station dxMY that the "car traps" were planted since a week ago.

"From the planting of improvised bombs, IFPA is now into planting of car traps," Fedrev said.

He did not describe what the traps were made of, but said over 200 pieces of these were planted on the Valencia-Malaybalay-Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro City highways.

He said similar traps were intended for motorists plying the Cagayan de Oro-Butuan City highway and more than 300 others were scattered on the Butuan-Tagum City stretch.

Fedrev said about the same number of car traps have been placed in the Davao-Kidapawan-Tacurong route, "making these roads dangerous to commuters."

"We want dxMY (radio station) to help us make the proper advisory to the public (by advising motorists) not to over speed," Fedrev told RMN-Cotabato news anchor Florante Formento in an interview.

Asked why IFPA apparently included civilians in its targets, Fedrev sounded apologetic, but said they already tried other means but failed.

He labeled the latest IFPA move as "a form of protest against the upper and middle classes of society."

"(They are) conniving with the government (in their) massive grabbing of ancestral lands and up to now there is no initiative from the government to recognize the rights of the *lumads* over the control of their ancestral domain," he said.

But Fedrev said if President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to ignore their plea, the use of car traps in Mindanao might be replicated in other parts of the country.

As this developed, another victim of the deadly blast during a fiesta celebration here on May 1 has died, raising the death toll to six.

Kunesa Sekak, Central Mindanao social welfare director, said Marissa Estacio, 33, died while being treated at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.

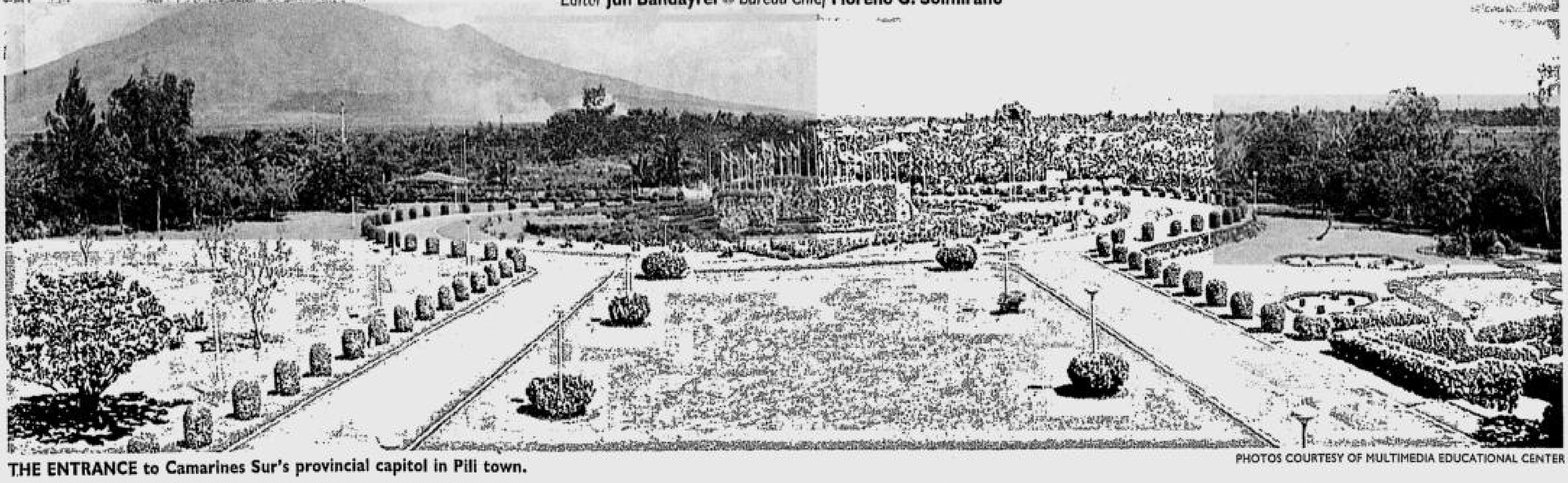
Sekak said based on official record, only six have died and at least 80 were injured after a group of drunken teenagers tossed a hand grenade at the Notre Dame Village parish grounds on May 1.

In Digos City, Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur provincial police director, said authorities remained on red alert following fears the city could become the next target of bombings.

Navaja said policemen were deployed to crowded places including shopping malls, churches, wet markets, and passenger terminals to safeguard the public.

Before the heightened alert, police discovered suspected bombs that caused panic at the public market and in a hotel. ***Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◆ Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano



THE ENTRANCE to Camarines Sur's provincial capitol in Pili town.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MULTIMEDIA EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Eco-Village: An 'ecologists' haven

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Pili, Camarines Sur

VISITING the provincial capitol of Pili, Camarines Sur, some 430 kilometers south of Manila, could be an exhilarating experience. Within the local government complex is an array of structures of varied architectural designs, and environment friendly projects.

But one area in the complex that stands out and gives a lasting impression especially to nature and plant lovers is the 14-hectare Eco-Village.

The structures and facilities here blend well with the greenery that serve as a mantle to the whole Eco-Village. It soothes the senses and frees one's mind from the drudgery of city life.

After nine hours of travel by bus to the south from Cubao to Naga City, this is a place where weary bodies can rest.

To plant lovers, the Eco-Village is a place they will love to visit many times over.

Exotic plants

First time visitors could ask the guards or any employee of the provincial capitol where to buy exotic plants and they will be instructed to proceed to this lovely place.

One can buy ornamental plants, rare species of ferns and other flowering plants from the collection of at least 1,100 ornamental plants at prices lower than the prevailing commercial prices in the town.

On the side of the access road of the Eco-Village, a unique plant with yellow blooms graciously crawls. It must not be mistaken for a fast-growing weed. It is called *arachis*, one of the ornamental plant species propagated here.

Inside the Eco-Village, visitors can stay in an eco-lodge whose design and settings are meant to convey warmth and a homey ambience. The bedspreads in the lodge are handmade quilts.

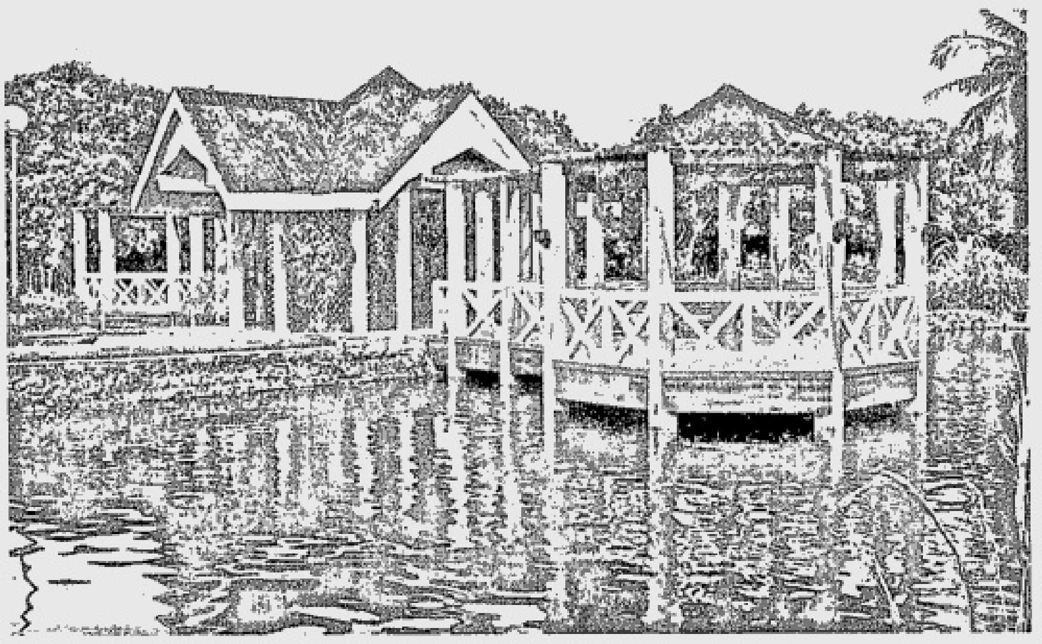
At one side of the eco-lodge, a small pond with flowing water and several bright-colored carps provide a good ambience for meditation.

And if one really feels like meditating, a trail at the back of the cabin leads to a concrete platform down the creek under a canopy of bamboo plants and overhanging trees.

Unique facilities

The Eco-Village has three unique facilities—a gazebo in a pond that teems with freshwater fishes, a campsite installed with two Jacuzzis in open air and a huge spherical steel aviary.

Underneath a mango grove, the campsite accommodates visitors for an overnight stay or an extended period. The campers are given the option of either pitching their own tents or using the tent-type metal huts.



THE OPEN restaurant and bar in the Ecovillage is undergoing construction.

One can camp here in style. Two Jacuzzis are at one's disposal anytime in the middle of the campsite outside a row of air-conditioned metal tents that await those who prefer to sleep in sheltered comfort.

Walking on a concrete narrow road leading to the campsite, one will pass by a gazebo built in a pond. The gazebo looks like a pagoda on stilts.

Underneath the shimmering water, three species of edible freshwater fish are raised for the discriminating taste of those who find leisurely fishing exciting.

One could see schools of medium-sized *tilapia*, catfish and orange carps while standing inside the gazebo built halfway into the pond.

Beside the pond, concrete tables and chairs are available for picnic use. At the edge of the picnic area is a pathway waiting to be discovered. The pathway leads to a cage where a couple of eagles are being raised, and which connects this place to a network of nature trails inside the complex.

Nature trails

The network of nature trails allows a leisurely walk under the protective shield of tall bamboo plants and several species of trees that cover the developed areas.

Several kilometers of trails traverse the capitol complex.

Criss-crossing small creeks and rivers, the nature trails lead to a concrete convergence area or pockets of gardens. One will discover, once he starts exploring the capitol complex, that a whole day is not enough to really enjoy all the facilities and bits of scenery here.

The huge spherical aviary made of steel is designed to house several species of birds. Its size easily grabs one attention, right after the pond.

Inside the aviary, two fully-grown mango trees are left untouched.

With the construction of the huge steel aviary, the provincial government plans to develop a bird-breeding enterprise in the next three years.

One could imagine listening to a thousand different chirps in one place when various species of birds start to fill the aviary.

The spherical steel aviary is an architectural monument in itself with aesthetic value.

The Eco-Village is not only a garden and ecology park. A medium-sized swimming pool has been built to complete the needs of the visitors coming here.

In front of the swimming pool, is a restaurant where visitors can cook the fish caught in the gazebo after enjoying leisurely fishing.

In a nutshell, the 14-hectare Eco-Village is a nature and plant lovers' haven, and more. It is a tapestry of ecology and environment friendly projects and facilities inside a garden of thousands of species of plants.

Delia Maga remembered as loving mother

VICTORIA, Laguna—"Please love and take care of your mother. It is painful to lose a mother. I hope your mother will not experience the same tragic fate that befell my mother away from home."

This is the advice of 24-year-old Roldan Maga to the sons and daughters of parents working abroad.

Roldan's mother, Delia Mamaril Maga, was killed 11 years ago in Singapore, where she was working as domestic helper. Singaporean authorities claimed that fellow domestic workers Flor Contemplacion, who was executed in a jail in Singapore, killed Delia.

But Roldan, the eldest of three sons of Maga, who was only 14 when his mother died, could have been the victim of foul play.

Majority of Filipinos back home also believed that both she and Maga were victims of a sinister design by the real criminals.

This was shown by the outpouring of support of Filipinos nationwide and the hero's welcome that Contemplacion received from relatives, friends and sympathizers when her lifeless body (after the Singaporean government executed her) was finally brought home in Barangay Concepcion, San Pablo City.

Demetria Bautista Maga, sister-in-law of Delia and also a former domestic helper in Singapore, doubted strongly that Contemplacion, her closest friend, could kill Maga. "Filipinos away from home most often regard each other as best friends or even virtual relatives," she said.

But after 10 years, justice for Maga's murder has remained elusive and perhaps would remain as such in a foreign land like Singapore.

Relatives of the late Delia Maga recalled how she used to send P5,000 or more for her three schooling boys and husband since 1988 until she died mysteriously inside the house of her employer in Singapore on May 4, 1991.

Her plan to send her sons to school and improve their difficult farm life back home also died with her.

"Delia was a very loving wife to her husband, affectionate and good mother to her sons. She was very kind, generous, workaholic and persevering," Demetria said.

The family, according to the sister-in-law, is planning to prepare a simple celebration to recall Maga's heroic, determined and unwavering sacrifices for the family that she dearly loved.

On her birthday on Oct. 6 last year, the family visited the tomb of Delia at the downtown cemetery to light some candles and offer flowers and prayers for her. It was her 46th birthday. She was born on Oct. 6, 1955 in Tarlac province.

Ronald, who was 12 years old, and Eugenio, seven years old when their mother died, recalled with nostalgia the happy memories of their beloved mother.

"Our life would not have been this miserable had *nanay* (mother) survived her ordeal in that cruel environment in Singapore," Roldan said.

He said, if his mother did not die, they (three sons) would surely be able to pursue any course in college. "This was practically one of the reasons why my mother had sacrificed her life as a domestic helper in a foreign land."

Since her mother died, recalled Roldan, "our (all-male) home has gradually and slowly lost the luster that it used to have."

"My father has become depressed. He just could not bear the fact that *nanay* succumbed to such a tragic death away from home," the eldest son said.

However, he admitted that his father, a farm worker, though poor and lonely, remained a good father and provider for the family.

Despite life's economic challenges, Roldan was able to finish high school. He attempted to enroll in college and take up computer science but financial incapacity prevented him. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Mountain monkeys vanishing

By Mei Magsino
Batangas City

THERE used to be thousands of monkeys roaming the mountains of Barangay Malibayo in Batangas City.

Now there are less than 500 of them.

They are being hunted and killed by farmers who look at them as pests. Some monkeys end up on the dining table.

A witness to the monkeys' disappearance, Tune Cabatay, Barangay Chair of Malibayo, narrates the monkeys' ordeal in the hands of humans.

"We are now campaigning to save those monkeys and convert the Malibayo mountains to a monkey conservation park," said Philip Baroja, city environment and natural resources officer.

Baroja and his staff, the city's boy scouts and volunteers recently made a trek to Barangay Tingga Labak. They hiked through the Malibayo mountains in search of the monkeys.

But the group, which camped in the Piit River, where monkeys were supposed to drink in the morning and at noon, was not able to see even a shadow of the monkeys.

After the two-day trek in the mountains, the exhausted team found two monkeys, but neither in the mountains nor in the forests of Malibayo.

The monkeys were chained next to a barbecue stand downtown, sitting next to pork cubes roasting on hot coal.

From pets to pests

There used to be about 20,000 monkeys in the Malibayo mountains and forests. They would even cross the roads and be seen by residents up close.

In the 1960s, according to residents of Malibayo, the monkeys were not as wild as they are now. Some would even visit their homes.

There, monkeys grew as tall as three feet at a mature age. Monkeys as big as three feet are called *mananer*.

Some residents here also used to have monkeys as pets.

It was only when the farmers started killing them and the guard dogs began hounding the monkeys that they became wild and started getting scarcer.

Cabatay, 42, has a ready answer for the vanishing monkeys of Malibayo.

As a farmer whose crops have always been attacked by the monkeys, he said he has no choice but to kill those "pests."

"I have a cornfield that was ready for harvest last season," Cabatay said, "And the day before I was about to reap the fruit of my hard work, all I found were devoured corncobs, and ravished corn plants. Some corncobs lying on the ground had just a bite on the side and thrown away. Here, we consider the monkeys as pests. And like all pests, they have to be exterminated."

Another farmer, Amado Pagkaliwagan, 46, said his sugar apple plantation also suffered the same fate.

"Those monkeys are even disgusting," Pagkaliwagan said, "They would even pick out the ripe sugar apples even if they are already full, take a bite and throw the fruits like garbage."

Lorenzo Camacho, 52, also a farmer, prides himself with having killed not less than 200 monkeys in his field and in the mountains.

He even guides monkey hunters in the forest to track down the monkeys.

Camacho said captured monkeys could also be skinned, chopped and cooked into *adobo* and served as *pulutan* for the farmers.

"Sometimes in the fields and in the mountains, we even set traps to ensnare the monkeys," he said. "In the cornfields, when my scarecrow did not work, I killed a monkey and set the body up on the scarecrow's place. The monkeys never returned to my field."

Cabatay said the monkeys, which have now turned into pests, have nothing to eat in the mountains since the dry season started and the trees have not borne any fruit.

Next to Tingga Falls

With the success of the Save Tingga Falls Movement, the group that started the cleanup drive is now planning to save the monkeys of Malibayo.

"We are soliciting the help of the barangay folk to save the Malibayo monkeys, but it seems that we can't really blame them if they have been killing the monkeys," Baroja said. "For any farmer, a pest like that is bad for business, and should be killed. But we can't let them kill the monkeys forever. We have to do something to divert the monkeys' attention to a new food source."

According to residents who have seen the five monkey trails in the mountains, there are now an estimated 100 in the Kalansing trail, 50 in Sia, another 50 in Borbor, Kinikiputan, and Piit trails.

Monkey trails in the mountains show a white limestone path from the peak down to the nearest river where they drink at five to six in the morning and in the afternoon.

"Developing these mountains into a monkey conservation park would again entail a lot of money," Baroja said, "But Batangueños today can turn it into a legacy for the next generation if we start preserving it now," he added.

The city environment officer said the city has been having frequent foreign visitors who want to see a piece of natural resources the city could offer. But since the city has no nature parks, nor resorts, the foreign guests are taken to a trip to Palawan or to Boracay.

The movement to save Tingga Falls and the monkey conservation park would be a future tourist destination, Baroja said.

The Malibayo mountains still teem with wild chicken known as *labuyo*, eagles, and crows.

Suicide bomber kills 15 in Israel; 60 wounded

From page A1

south of Tel Aviv.

The bombing, claimed by the Islamic militant group Hamas, was the deadliest terror attack since Israel launched its "Defensive Shield" offensive against Palestinian militants on March 29, invading most West Bank towns.

Twelve hours after the pool hall attack, another bomber detonated explosives, albeit prematurely, at a road junction in northern Israel. The assailant was critically wounded, but caused no injuries.

At Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, a five-week standoff dragged on Wednesday as the Israeli Cabinet considered a tough response to the suicide bombings, including new large-scale military operation and the expulsion of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

A day earlier, 13 Palestinian militants holed up in the shrine agreed to be deported by Israel. Italy, the country designated to accept the militants, said it had largely been kept out of the loop and balked at accepting the deportees without further clarification.

"It could be that in the end there would be no choice and we would have to expel Arafat," Israeli Education Minister Limor Livnat said in Washington after learning about the pool hall attack. Livnat is traveling with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who blamed Arafat and cut short his trip after meeting with US President George W. Bush.

Sharon flew back to Israel where he was to convene the Cabinet later Wednesday to decide on his government's response.

The attack

The pool hall bomber walked into a crowded third-floor establishment in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion shortly after 11 p.m. (2000 GMT) Tuesday and blew up metal-studded explosives which, according to some accounts, were hidden in a suitcase.

The blast blew out walls of the Sheffield Club and witnesses said bodies flew through the air into the parking lot below.

"Suddenly, everything was dark and there were bodies on the floor, and broken chairs and tables and dust," said patron Suzie Biton, who had just settled in at one of the slot machines when the explosion shook the club.

The blast killed 15 Israelis, including a woman who died of her injuries Wednesday. Police said the bomber was a man.

More than 60 people were wounded, including more than a dozen who were in serious condition. Police said the hall was packed with young Israelis out for the evening.

Police said the pool hall and gaming parlor was operating without a license and had no guard at the door, a violation of Israeli security procedures.

Tough response

Sharon said Israel would "act strongly" against Palestinian militants, adding that the mission of the previous military offensive had not been completed.

"The battle continues and will continue, until all those who believe that they can make gains through the use of terror will cease to exist," he said in Washington.

In Tel Aviv, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met with Army commanders on Wednesday.

Before the bombings, Israel's Army chief, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, told parliament's defense and foreign affairs committee on Tuesday that if terror attacks resumed, Israel would be forced to carry out an offensive at least as extensive as the previous one, the largest operation in a generation.

Hamas, which has carried out scores of attacks on Israelis in the past 19 months of fighting, claimed responsibility and said there would be more bombings.

"The resistance will continue," a senior Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, told state-run Iranian radio. "This is the price the Zionists should pay because of their cruel crimes and atrocities."

Hamas did not identify the bomber, but the attack prompted speculation that in a new offensive, Israel might target Gaza, which was spared during the previous operation. Hamas' command center and leadership are located in Gaza.

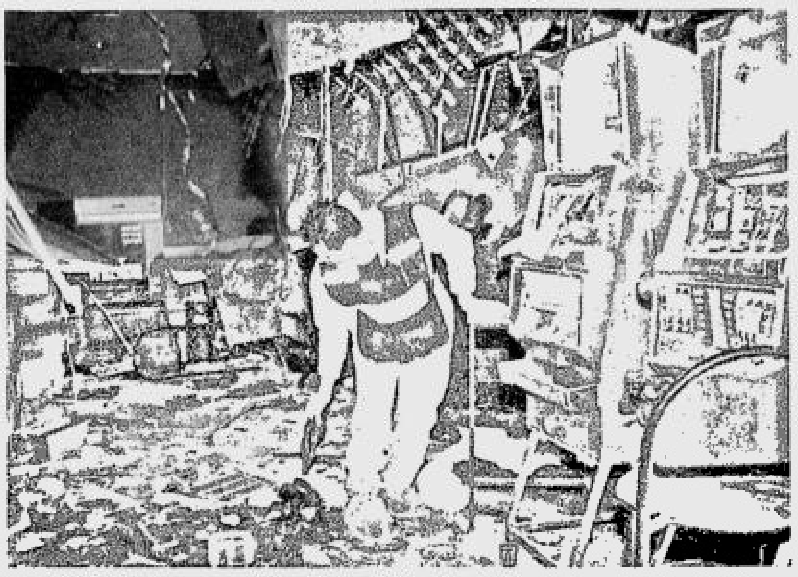
The attack ended a period of relative calm in Israel. The last previous bombing was April 12, when a woman blew herself up in an outdoor market in Jerusalem, killing six bystanders.

Temporary lull

"What we had over the past two weeks was a lull, a very temporary one," wrote military commentator Alex Fischman in the Yediot Ahronot daily. "Operation Defensive Shield made suicide bombers multiply like mushrooms after the rain."

Army commanders earlier said they could reduce, but not stop suicide attacks.

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat holds a meeting at his Ramallah office following the suicide bombing that killed 16; Israeli PM Ariel Sharon (at right with President Bush) cuts short his visit to Washington. REUTERS



THE SCENE of carnage (above) is a billiards club in town of Rishon Letzion. (Below) Another conflicted area is the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, where relatives of 30 Palestinians who had been hiding there wait for their release. REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said the recent Israeli offensive into Palestinian territories was responsible for the renewed attacks.

"They are dragging the whole region into more violence," she said. "It should have become clear now that there will be no peace or security for the Israelis without peace and security for the Palestinians and without full respect for the human rights of the Palestinians."

Sharon said the attack in Rishon Letzion was "proof of the true intentions of the person leading the Palestinian Authority," blaming Arafat without mentioning him by name.

Sharon has been trying to persuade the Americans that Arafat should not play a part in peace talks, charging that he is responsible for the violence that has plagued the region for more than 19 months.

Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said the president "was able to personally convey his condolences to the prime minister and . . . register his disgust with this wanton waste of life."

The two leaders were unable to bridge major differences on the Middle East crisis, including whether talks in the region should result in a Palestinian state, an outcome that the United States believes is essential.

Bush said he would send CIA Director George Tenet to help build a Palestinian security force to fight terrorism.

Condemnation

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bombing and said it would take firm steps against those involved.

"We will not be light-handed in punishing those who have caused great harm to our cause," the statement said.

In a rare choice of words, it referred to bombings as "terrorist crimes."

Public opinion polls have shown that many Palestinians believe such attacks are a legitimate way to fight Israeli occupation. *AP*

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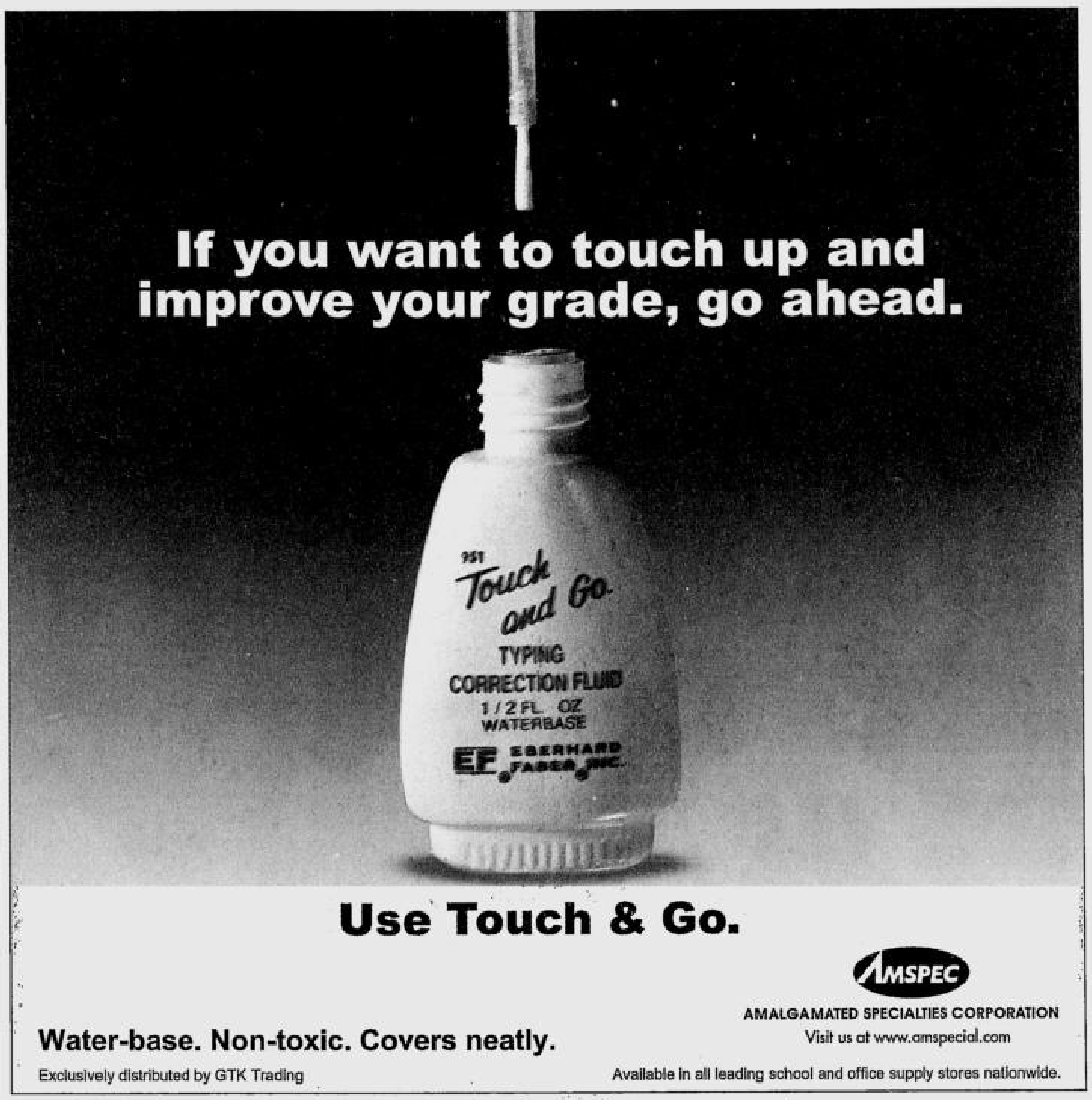

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GMA suspends Napocor's PPA charge

GOWNED by officials of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, President Macapagal prepares to receive an honorary degree in political science in Bangkok on Wednesday. AP

UNDER PROTEST!

THREE-YEAR-OLD Shane Flores joins the protest rally against the purchased power adjustment at the gate of the Batasan in Quezon City during the House energy committee hearings on the PPA on Wednesday. DENNIS SABANGAN

From page A1

tion of its PPA until June when Congress is expected to pass a law imposing a uniform PPA charge of P.40/kw.

When such a law is in effect, this portion of Napocor's PPA shall be reduced by at least P.85/kwh.

The President has also ordered a review of the IPP contracts that various groups have described as grossly disadvantageous to the government as well as consumers.

Energy Regulatory Chair Fe Barin yesterday told a House committee hearing that people could expect a lower electric bill as a result of the two orders by the President and the ERC.

"The result (of the two orders) should see a slight reduction in the charges in the next few months," Barin told the second House hearing on the controversial PPA.

Napocor president Roland Quilala said consumers could look forward to a lower electric bill in July.

A Napocor official explained that P1.89 of the P3.30/kwh that Meralco billed its customers for PPA charges in March covered Napocor costs.

"Of the P1.89, P1.25 covered the cost of power bought from Napocor's IPPs and 64 centavos covers foreign currency adjustment," he told the INQUIRER.

The remainder covered Meralco's system loss, franchise tax and the cost of power bought from the utility's own IPPs.

Quilala said the temporary shelving of a portion of its PPA charge would boost by P5 billion a month the corporation's projected budget deficit of P40 billion this year.

Warning

Sen. John Osmeña, however, warned of the "horrendous effects" that the President's directive would have on Napocor's finances.

The Senate finance committee chair, who was with the President's official delegation in Thailand, said that initial computations showed that "the loss to the government could amount to P48 billion a year."

"That loss will cause the budget deficit to balloon to P215 billion without counting shortfalls in revenue collection," Osmeña said.

"While I support the President in making this popular decision to the huge relief of our consumers, we should not close our eyes to what could happen (in the future)," he said.

"We must remember that there are no free rides, no free meals, no free tickets in this (situation). We should be aware of this consequence."

Businessmen

The Federation of Philippine Industries earlier urged the government to act immediately on the businessmen's appeal to slash PPA charges that have jacked up their electric bills by more than 50 percent last year.

FPI secretary general Joseph Francia said the power costs had surged drastically in the last 12 months and further diminished the competitiveness of local industries.

Francia warned that if the rising power costs were not checked soon, many businesses would have to close shop.

Among the most affected industries by the mounting cost of electricity are the steel and paper industries, electronic firms, and shopping malls.

Francia cited a paper miller whose power costs have gone up to a staggering P80 million a month in his modern factory and half of this was due to PPA. "Most industries are already using world-class factories but how can we compete if power costs are among the highest in the region?"

The FPI has asked the government to delay further tariff cuts until it has resolved the businessmen's problems on rising costs of doing business in the country, specifically power.

A top official of a steel corporation reported that based on a review of its previous electric bill, power costs had risen 4-5 percent over the last 12 months. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

Meralco accused of 'wholesale theft'

From page A1

said that based on Meralco's submission of PPA billings to the ERC, Meralco has been over-recovering PPA charges since September 2001.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism employed by utilities such as Meralco to cover price adjustments not included in their basic rate charge, such as the cost of power purchased from the National Power Corp. and their own independent power producers, and losses from systems inefficiency, as well as costs from franchise taxes.

Napocor has its own PPA, called the "fuel and purchased power cost adjustment," or FPCA, that it charges distributors of electricity, including Meralco, to recover increases in operating costs due to changes in the cost of power purchased from independent power producers, higher fuel prices and a weak peso-dollar exchange rate.

'Clear dishonesty'

Power's Reyes said the ERC's order was a big argument in favor of scrapping the PPA.

"The next logical step is to scrap this instrument of deception altogether," he said.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno, a militant labor group, supported this call.

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said the ERC should castigate Meralco for its "clear dishonesty."

"Meralco's fraudulent practice in collecting the PPA all the more justifies the public outcry to entirely scrap the PPA and to lower the electricity rates," Malunes said.

Modified formula

In its April 30 order, the ERC said Meralco violated government regulations when it passed on to consumers "under-recoveries" from previous PPA charges.

The prescribed formula for computing the PPA excludes deferred charges, the commission stressed.

It said Meralco unilaterally "modified" this formula when it included "under-/over-recoveries" in its PPA computations.

The ERC also ordered Meralco to explain its basis for computing "under-recoveries" estimated at P12.3 billion as of December last year.

According to the commission, Meralco has been "over-recovering" by over 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour as of February.

"It was observed from the aforementioned submission that (Meralco) unilaterally and without prior approval by the then ERB (Energy Regulatory Board, now the ERC) significantly modified said formula by automatically passing on to its customers, through the PPA, the over-/under-recoveries based on an amortization schedule covering a period of time of its own choice, which period changes every month," the ERC said.

The commission ordered Meralco to "cease and desist from automatically including the over-/under-recoveries in the PPA computations and to submit in writing the basis of the computations of the under-recoveries in the amount of P12.34 billion as of December 2001, including the amortization thereof over a period of time."

Meralco was given 15 days to explain its action.

Discount then surcharge

In a hearing of the House energy committee, ERC Chair Fe Barin said Meralco "should have first asked approval from the ERC on the collection of under-recoveries."

Barin said a refund was likely should the commission's review show that Meralco did bilk its customers.

In the same hearing, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said Meralco would comply with the ERC's order, but would also ask the commission to let it comply in the next billing cycle.

Meralco corporate communications director Elpi Cuna said Meralco decided to "under-recover" its PPA charges—meaning, it collected less than what it should—"to lessen its (the PPA's) impact on its customers."

Cuna, however, did not say how much "discount" Meralco gave its customers or when it began giving such a relief.

As its losses mounted, however, the company decided in September to correct its "under-recoveries," Cuna said. It has since been over-charging by an average 20 centavos to 25 centavos per kilowatt-hour in PPA charges, according to figures from the ERC.

Cuna disclosed that Meralco's under-recoveries forced the company to borrow money to pay its suppliers that, in turn, cost it some P1 billion in interest payments that it supposedly could not pass on to its customers.

Financial strain

Meralco said earlier that it would be difficult to implement the order since it has already started its new billing cycle for May and that it would hurt the company's finances.

"Any suspension of the collection of the deferred PPA will further aggravate our cash flow activities. The attendant financing charge will hurt Meralco's bottom line which for the first quarter of 2002 already registered a net loss," said Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada in a disclosure filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange on Tuesday.

Meralco said it posted a net loss of P72.79 million in the first quarter against a net profit of P394.37 million a year earlier.

The company also said the deferred PPA represented payments already made to its power suppliers, mainly Napocor and its two independent power producers, First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Corp.

"The deferral cost Meralco P1.03 billion in financing charges in 2001 alone. This is a cost which it cannot pass on to its customers," Meralco said. ***With a report from Agnes E. Donato and Reuters***

Mr. JESUS P. FRANCISCO

THE HATED purchased power adjustment (PPA) gets a hearing before the House energy committee chaired by Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles with Rep. Etta Rosales (right); Meralco president Jesus Francisco is on the hot seat. DENNIS SABANGAN

Penthouse apologizes for topless 'Anna' pics

KOURNIKOVA

NEW YORK —Penthouse magazine apologized Tuesday for misidentifying topless pictures of the daughter-in-law of fashion designer Luciano Benetton as those of tennis player Anna Kournikova.

"We deeply regret this unintentional error and offer our heartfelt apologies to both women," the magazine said in a statement.

The statement was released a day after Judith Soltesz-Benetton sued Penthouse, seeking a minimum of $ 10 million in damages. Her attorney, Judd Burstein, claimed the magazine knew about the mistake weeks ago, but published the photos anyway.

The apology "is a month late and $ 10 million short," Burstein said.

In response to the suit, U.S. District Judge Denny Chin ordered the magazine to temporarily stop distributing the June issue to newsstands and blocked it from putting pictures on a Web site.

Chin ruled Soltesz-Benetton, 28, would suffer irreparably if Penthouse sent the pictures beyond its current distribution of 1.2 million homes and newsstands. **AP**

BATA HEADS RP TEAM

World 9-Ball Challenge here

FILIPINO pool fans have a treat in store for them this June when Motolite presents the "World 9-Ball Challenge" featuring some of the greatest billiards players in the world in a four-day blockbuster tournament to be staged at the plush Las Vegas style setting of Casino Filipino, Parañaque.

Representing the "World's Best" in a showdown with the "Philippines' Best" will be world champion Mika Immonen nicknamed "The Fantastic Finn," US Open champion Corey Duel, the sensational young American who last week beat Efren "Bata" Reyes in the finals of the International Billiards Congress tournament in Japan, five-time world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and Japan's leading player Kumihiko Takahashi.

Anchoring the "Philippines' Best" will be "The Magician" Efren "Bata" Reyes, recent Japan Open Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 2000 champion Antonio "Nikoy" Lining and rising young sensation Dennis Orcullo.

REYES

Motolite which some years ago sponsored a major tournament at the Makati Coliseum featuring eight top players from the US against a roster of Filipino stars has been a consistent supporter of pool and has provided fans an opportunity to see some of the finest cue artists in the world in action in Manila.

The "Motolite World 9-Ball Challenge" which will run from June 6-9 will be telecast by Viva Vintage Sports in cooperation with Puyat Sports, longtime partners and sponsors of the country's outstanding players led by Reyes and Bustamante.

'Butterfly' rules kitefest penultimate leg

KALIBO, Aklan—Efraem Barredo's "Butterfly" bagged top honors in the ninth and penultimate leg of the Bear Brand Kitefest 2002 held at the Roxas Memorial College of Arts and Trade here.

Barredo's entry was chosen as the best-flying kite during the free flying period and was named "Saranggola ni Bear Brand" in the elementary category.

Reynaldo Borromeo and his entry "Banbanon" earned similar honors in the high school division.

Normel Cuales, on the other hand, bagged the superbike award or the biggest flying kite in the figure kite category for his entry "Jeef."

The annual kiteflying competition, which is being organized by Nestle Phils. Inc. as part of its efforts to promoted worthwhile summer activity for the whole family, ends on Sunday, May 12, at the Rizal Park.

SPORTSWATCH

Upset rocks kegfest

UNHERALDED bowler Jonas Baltasar of Vikings I pulled off a stunning reversal in the 34th MTBA Anniversary Open championships by beating veteran internationalist Angelo Constantino, 223-185, in the Masters finals last Monday at New Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue. Baltasar earned a crack at Constantino, who topped the 10-game eliminations with 2483 pins, by ruling the second shootout match with a 280. Baltasar knocked out first shootout winner James Hernandez, who slumped to 164; Adrian Saguinsin (224) and Ronnie Santos (185). Other winners in the six-day kegfest were Joonee Gatchalian, 2798, all-events; Franklin Pardo, 1528, singles; Prima 1's Garry Custodio and Joonee Gatchalian, 1429, doubles; and IFC 1's Franklin Pardo (635), Nelson Lao (573), Cesar Custodio (611) and Alex Gan (602), 2424, team.

'D' football slated

KORONADAL City—Sixteen teams have been invited to compete in the first "Double D" Mindanao Football Cup on May 17-21 at the sports complex here. These are Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Davao Norte, Medvil Football Club (Davao City), Sultan Kudarat, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, Pagadian City, Dipolog City, South Cotabato, Surigao City, Butuan City, Agusan del Sur, Cotabato City, Iligan City and Zamboanga City. A project of the PGMA Sports for Peace Program in Mindanao, the soccerfest will determine the four Mindanao teams that will compete in the Philippine Football Federation national championship slated late July in Bacolod City. The tourney is named "Double D" because it's being hosted by South Cotabato Congressman Arthur "Dodong" Pingoy and Gov. Daisy Avance Fuentes. The Philippine Sports Commission is also supporting the event.

Gubat golf tilt up

"THE GUBAT Challenge," an invitational fund-raising golf event hosted by the Gubat High School Alumni Association Inc. of Gubat, Sorsogon with the support of Pinseeker Golf Club, will be held at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City on May 10, 2002. Tee-Off is at 12 noon. Funds raised through this sport event will be used for the Scholarship Development Program launched by the Association specifically to the poor but truly deserving and talented students. For more information on the "Gubat Challenge" interested parties may contact Cesar Detera of GHSAAI at tel. no. 426-9082 or Greg Pacifico, president Pinseeker Golf Club at tel. no. 941-0128.

Bicol-Bestank scores

NAGA City—Bicol-Bestank charged back from an eight-point halftime deficit to squeak past the Zamboanga Flowers, 45-44, in a thrilling down-the-wire battle ushering in the 1st Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) here. In other results, the Cebu Queens whipped the Pangasinan Summers-Simco Traders, 46-42, while the Davao Pearls turned back the Laguna Charmers-Jumbo Plastics, 39-28, in this tournament supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Uratex, Burlington and YKL Color Films. WNBL president Jean Monteverde and Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo tossed the ceremonial ball opening the five-day, 15-game cagefest, which has the Iruma/Conti as its official basketball.

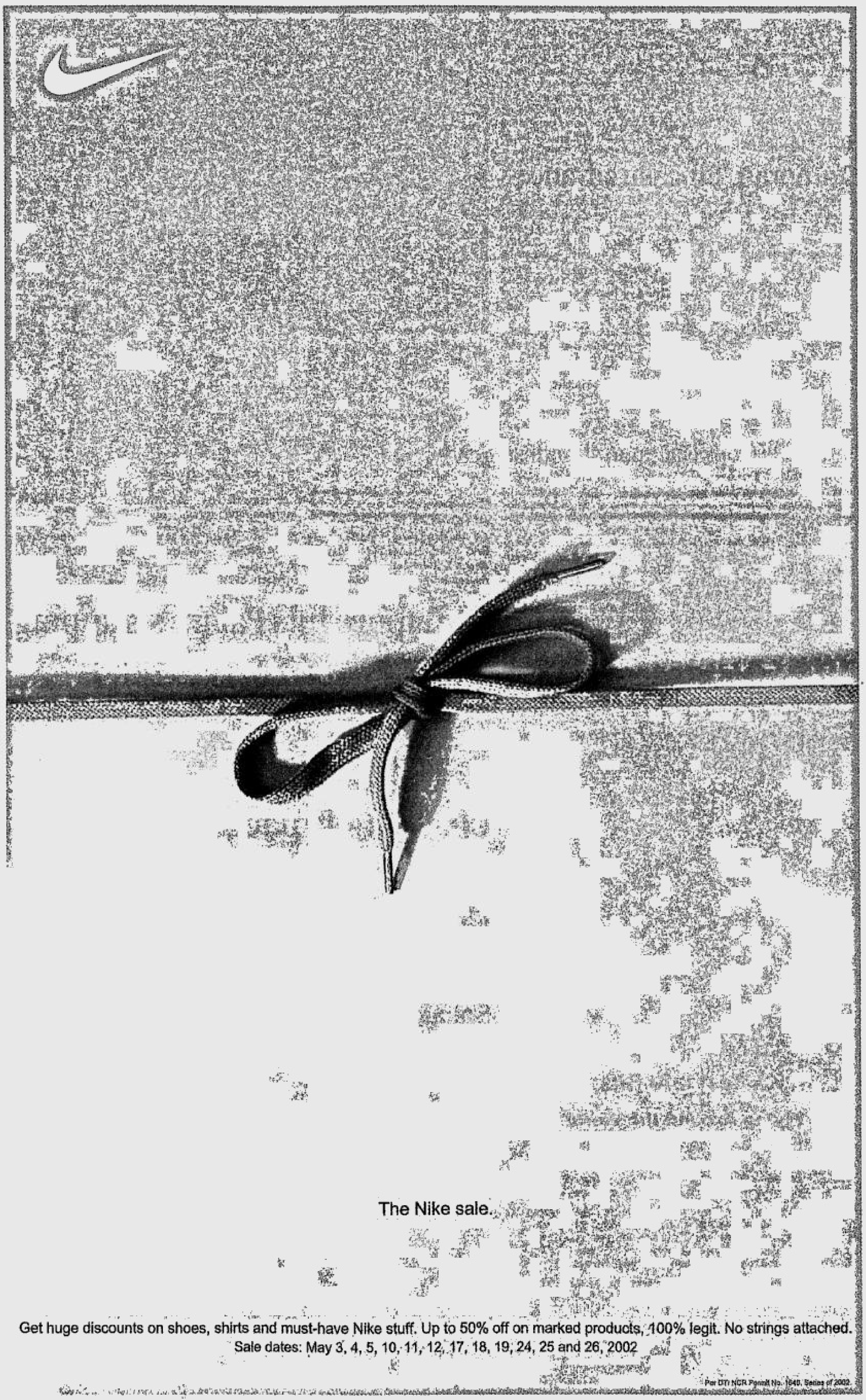
Seattle Slew is dead

NEW YORK —He wasn't the eyeful that Secretariat was and he did not attract Big Red's attention, but Seattle Slew was all race horse. Oh, was he ever. Seattle Slew died Tuesday, 25 years to the day he won the Kentucky Derby and began his successful bid to become a Triple Crown champion. As a foal he was described as ugly. As a yearling he was sold for $17,500. He turned out to be a custom-made suit that was mistakenly put on the rack. As a racehorse, he was sensational. In a vote by a six-member panel assembled by The Associated Press to select the top 10 horses of the 20th century, Seattle Slew tied for 10th with Forego. **AP**

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Maple My Love 2. Nakagayak 3.D Contractor 4. Strong Element
Race 2—1. Romario 2. Memorandum 3. Black Ijhay 4. Guts Pleaser
Race 3—1. Waving Oscar 2. Night Flight 3. S'il Vous Plait
Race 4—1. Golden Brook 2. Snowy Sea 3. Take Chances 4. Never Quit 5. Trade Secret
Race 5—1. Sharp Bullet 2. Modern Classic 3. King Size 4. Carolina Belle
Race 6—1. May's Magic 2. Key to Heaven 3. Perry's Will 4. Friendly Lover 5. Marissa's Diane 6. D Optician
Race 7—1. Replica 2. Patago 3. Tiger Eye 4. Miguel's Pet 5. Very Sharp
Race 8—1. Southern Glory 2. Adam's Call 3. Southern Skies 4. Bambino
Race 9—1. American Music 2. Kay Gee Em Ey 3. First of All 4. Pistol Red 5. Magic Bullet 6. T Square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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA playoffs, Conference Finals—Boston Celtics vs Detroit Pistons, Game 2 at 10 p.m. (delayed) on NBN 4

TENNIS: Masters Series (Rome), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #3 at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge, Final Round at 7:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PBA finalists known today; Coca-Cola, Alaska favored

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
6 p.m.—Coke vs Purefoods
8 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

THE FINALISTS will be known today when Purefoods, Coca-Cola, Alaska and San Miguel Beer end their semifinal odyssey in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The Tigers had to lean on Estong Ballesteros to beat the Hotdogs, 64-59, while the Aces refused to just roll over and die and turned back the Beermen, 74-63, as both semifinal pairings were pushed to a deciding Game 5.

The 6 p.m. opener will pit the Ron Hale-spiked Tigers against the Ryan Gregorio-mentored Hotdogs before San Miguel Beer and Alaska clash at 8 p.m.

Psychologically, the Tigers and the Aces have the edge, judging from the way their respective semifinal series have progressed.

The Tigers of coach Chot Reyes climbed from a 0-2 deficit before stealing Games 3 and 4.

The Aces grabbed the momentum after finding unlikely heroes in Don Allado and John Arigo, who, before Game 4, were hardly a factor for Alaska.

These favored squads, however, cannot just rest on their laurels as the Hotdogs and the Beermen, teams rich in championship history, are surely preparing a potent brew to stop them from getting into the Finals.

The Beermen are seeking their 17th title overall in a bid to further extend what is already a league-best as far as the number of titles is concerned.

The fabled Crispa Redmanizers are second in the list after capturing 13 rings before bidding the league adieu in 1985.

RCPI seeks semis berth versus Osaka

GAME TODAY (St. La Salle, Bacolod)
6 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

RCPI Negros targets an outright semifinal berth when it tangles with Osaka Pangasinan at 6 p.m. today in the MBA First Conference at the St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

The Slashers are favored owing to their homecourt advantage and the inconsistent showing of the Waves, who blew a 22-point lead and yielded to the LBC Batangas Blades, 89-86, on Sunday.

Toting a six-win, two-loss record, the Slashers lead the Southern Conference and another victory tonight would push them to the knockout semifinals.

The 4-4 Waves, powered by Chris Clay and Romel Adducul, are, however, expected to pour everything they've got since a loss would mean an early exit.

The Slashers, showing balanced firepower, smothered the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos, 83-62, in their last outing on Saturday.

Dumoran, Tangalin advance

SUBIC BAY Freeport—Oswaldo Dumoran of Cebu and Jimmy Tangalin Jr. of Baguio eliminated their seeded rivals Tuesday night to gain quarterfinal berths in the boys' 18-under division of the first Coca-Cola national Tennis Championship at the New Subic Bay International Sports and Tennis Center here.

Dumoran ousted second seed Joseph Arcilla of Letran, 7-6, (5), 6-1, to advance against No. 8 Ronald Jovel of Sultan Kudarat, a 6-0, 6-0 winner over John Philip Miraran.

Tangalin, an incoming senior at the Baguio City High School, stunned No. 4 Irwin de Guzman of La Salle-Greenhills, 6-3, 6-1, to advance against No. 6 Patrick John Tierro of Olongapo.

Top seed Yannick Guba of La Salle outplayed Ralph Tyrone Javera, 6-2, 6-2; No. 5 Allan Agulto of Nueva Ecija defeated Andrew Adaza of Davao Oriental, 6-2, 6-2; and University of Baguio's Marvelous Cortez won by default over Gino Bautista to also earn quarterfinal slots in this event presented by Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. Chair Felicito Payumo, PLDT, Truflex, Wilson, Prince, Union Bank, Union Cement, Chris Sports, Dunlop and Adidas.

Fernandez tops Dagupan shootfest

DAGUPAN CITY—At least 180 shooters from 23 gun clubs nationwide participated in the recently concluded 1st Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez Invitational Shootfest held at the Don Pedro Balingit Firing Range in Barangay Bonuan Binloc here.

"This was the biggest gathering of shooters in the city so far," said Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez, a member of the host Dagupan Practical Shooters Association.

Fernandez ruled the LGU division at the end of the three-day shootfest, which was sanctioned by the Philippine Practical Shooters Association and a part of the Pistay Dayat celebration this year.

The ceremonial shots were fired by Local Government Undersecretary Alipio Fernandez Jr.; City Mayor Benjamin Lim, the vice mayor, Councilor Joey Tamayo, PPSA Region1 director Mon Quinto and DPSA president John Co.

Event organizer Louie Sareno prepared seven stages, which tested the skills not only of participating shooting enthusiasts but also the members of the Philippine shooting team.

Guest shooters included LJ dela Cruz, Kaye Dacer and the Martinez siblings from Cotabato, who have been making waves in practical shooting in the country.

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FLIGHT UPDATES

Kitefest Info Bits:

Flying Around the World

In China, the ninth day of the ninth month is a "Kite Day" and is considered a big holiday.

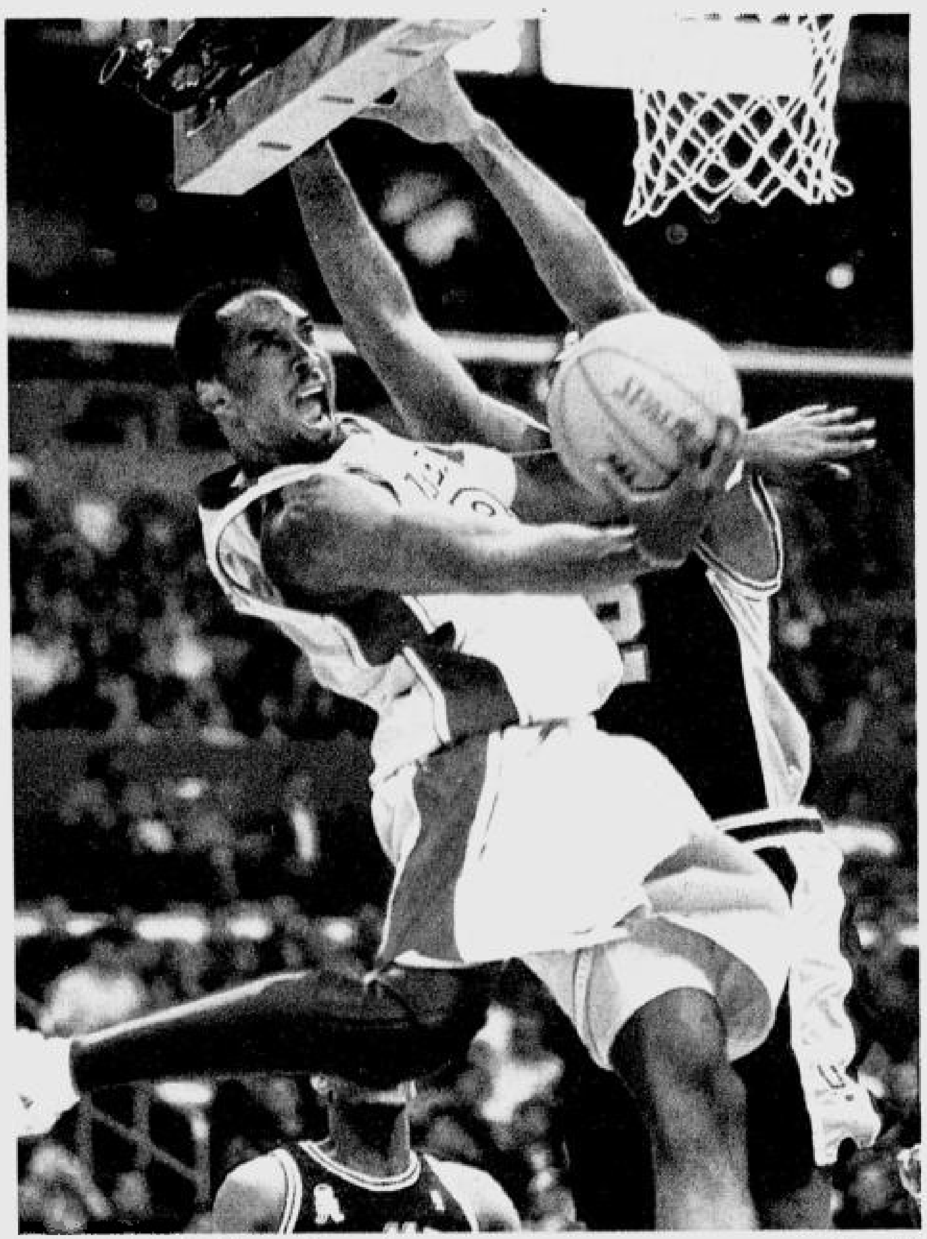
Balinese Hindus believe that kite flying is one of the favorite hobbies of their gods.

In the traditional Korean kite-flying season, kites with the words "Bad luck away and good luck stay" are flown as high as the line will allow and then released. It is believed that each of these freed kites will carry away its owner's bad luck.

In Santiago de Secatepequez, Guatemala, people celebrate "All Saints Day" by flying large circular kites over the graves of the departed, "to release their souls."

Kite "dog fights" are popular in eastern parts of the world, especially in India and Japan. In the competition, kites with ground glass glued to their lines try to cut the lines of other kites, sending them crashing down. The last kite left flying is declared the winner.

Watch out for BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002! Happening next at the Rizal Park, Manila on May 12, 2002.


AP

ACROBATIC SHOT
Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (left) does an acrobatic shot against San Antonio Spurs' Mark Bryant during Game 2 yesterday of their NBA Western Conference semifinal series in Los Angeles. Kobe's effort went for naught, though, as the Spurs won, 88-85, for a 1-1 count. In the Eastern playoffs, New Jersey beat Charlotte, 102-88, for a 2-0 Nets lead.

La Salle defeats Ateneo

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
1:45 p.m.—Ateneo vs RP Youth
4 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs John-O
6 p.m.—Blu vs ICTSI-La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

PLAYMAKER Mike Cortez sizzled as ICTSI-La Salle pulled off a masterful 73-64 triumph over Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation, becoming the first semifinalist in the PBL Chairman's Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

The six-foot-flat Cortez poured in six of his game-high 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Green Archers avenged their 63-57 first round loss to the Blue Eagles.

It was La Salle's seventh win in nine games, while Ateneo absorbed its third loss in eight outings.

Cortez got able support from Willy Wilson, Manny Ramos, Dominic Uy and Mark Magsumbol.

La Salle's air-tight defense on Ateneo big men Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez also worked. The 6-foot-5 Villanueva finished with 16 but went scoreless in the fourth quarter, while Alvarez finished with six, all in the first period.

Cortez's acrobatic shot gave La Salle its biggest lead, 69-57, 3:59 left.

Earlier, Ismael Junio waxed hot from all angles as Shark Energy Drink spanked RP Youth, 100-43, as the Power Boosters extended their winning run to five.

Blu Sun Power also boosted its semis bid with a thrilling 60-53 victory over also-ran Montaña Jewels. The Detergent Kings improved their record to 4-4, while the Jewels dropped to 2-7.

With a report from Emil Cabrera.

Dimaporo hits Palaro scrapping, appeals to Roco

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REP. Bobby Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte yesterday protested the cancellation of this year's Palarong Pambansa from June to January, saying such move is unfair to his province.

The solon's home province is scheduled to host next year's Palaro.

Dimaporo said Tubod, Lanao del Norte can no longer wait for another year to host the event, which has been postponed for the past two years already.

"It's very unfair," said Dimaporo, whose province has been by-passed the last two years despite a newly built P500 million sports complex, venue of last year's First Mindanao Friendship Games.

"We even allowed him (Raúl Roco) to choose whom to award the venue for the Palaro (Naga City)," said Dimaporo, who vowed to appeal to Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Roco, from Naga City himself, scrapped the Palaro on Monday, citing the closeness of the opening of classes with the Palaro's schedule.

Dimaporo, chair of the Mindanao Sports Council, said he is confident that Roco will reconsider because "this is just a little misunderstanding."

Lanao del Norte made a bid to host the Palaro as early as 1999 but it lost the bid to Bacolod City. But the Games were scrapped due to financial constraints and political instability in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Coscolluela paces Seniors golf

DEFENDING champion Caloy Coscolluela bucked a string of early miscues to salvage a three-over-par 75 for a two-stroke lead over Richie Garcia in the opening round of the Philippine Amateur Seniors Open golf championship at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Coscolluela, sports and games division manager of Alabang Country Club, steadied himself after going three-over after the first six holes.

Garcia's 77 was highlighted by three consecutive birdies from the 14th hole before bogeying the last two holes.

Tied at 78 in the tourney sponsored by Taylor Made Adidas, Pan West, Pagcor, Pfizer, DHL/WWW Express and Masters Sports/Mizuno and Toyota Altis/Toyota Motors Philippines Inc. were Balty Baltazar, Pete Cervantes and Jun Sarmiento while two solid picks, OV Espiritu and Carlo Gamban, were at 79.

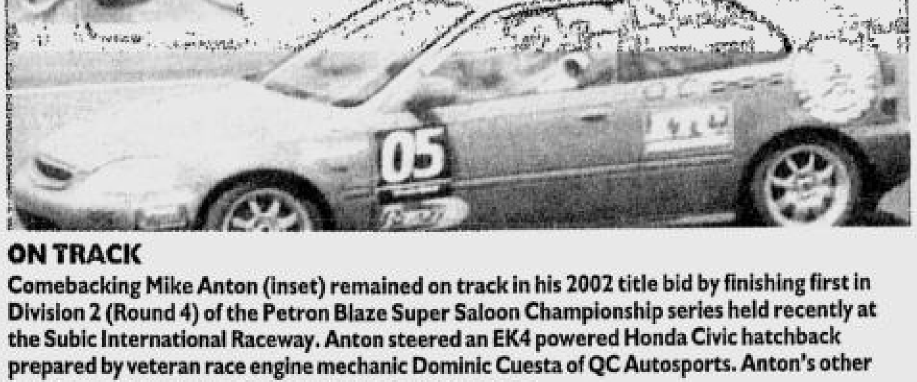
Speaker's Cup unwraps at Wack Wack

THE FIRST Speaker's Cup for Haven, the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc.'s fund-raising tournament with Metro Manila street children as beneficiaries, will be played today at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's West Course.

To kick ht e18-hole event off, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife, CSFI president Gina, will hit the ceremonial drives at 10 a.m.

"Actual competition begins at 11 a.m. via a shotgun start," said Margie Duavit, overall chair of the tournament named in honor of Speaker De Venecia.

"We have 120 players contending for top two individual honors each in Classes A, B and C," said tournament director Col. Abe Villanueva. "We will use the Blind Callaway scoring system."



ON TRACK
Comebacking Mike Anton (inset) remained on track in his 2002 title bid by finishing first in Division 2 (Round 4) of the Petron Blaze Super Saloon Championship series held recently at the Subic International Raceway. Anton steered an EK4 powered Honda Civic hatchback prepared by veteran race engine mechanic Dominic Cuesta of QC Autosports. Anton's other sponsors this season are KTC Tools and Pinoy Toppings.

Ucap Alkalde derby tonight

THE "11TH Ucap Alkalde AT Dominator Jcap 7-Cock Derby" championship round will be held tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug as sponsors.

Ucap president Butch Macasaet (BJ Greenwood), resurgent Mauro Prieto of Palawan (Anito MB) and the tandem of Charlie Reyes and Alan Tan (Nevada Fantastic J-Cap) banner the qualifiers after posting three points each Tuesday night.

Next week, the 12th Ucap 7-Cock Derby will be hosted by Salud, Lito Orillaza, ESM Ruel and Boy de Roca. The Ucap Matchmakers 4-cock derby of Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo is slated on May 18, a Saturday.

For other inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Pasay cockfest set tomorrow

UPCOMING cockers from Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Pasay and Parañaque clash in another special 4-cock derby tomorrow, Friday, at the Pasay City Cockpit.

At stake is P300,000 and entry fee is P10,000. Derby host is the FTE-RCA Jackpot Group.

Meanwhile, pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy announced that three more 4-cock events are lined-up at PCC for the month of May. These will be held on May 17 (Dante Eustaquio and Mon Torres), May 24 (Ococ Manuel Sy and TJ Tanlaico Jr.) and May 31 (Cito Manansala and B. Olano).

Last week, 2002 World Slasher Cup champion Dicky Lim of Batangas (Taal entry) emerged as solo champion in the BL Bigtime 5-Cock Derby also at Pasay Cockpit. For other details, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

NBI agents eyed in P15M shabu loss

A HIGH-RANKING officer of the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that "rogue" agents of the bureau could be responsible for the disappearance of nearly P15 million worth of shabu from the NBI's evidence vault. The source, who requested anonymity, said the suspects took the missing narcotic while it was being transported from the trial court to the NBI headquarters. ***Philip Tubeza***

Rich barangays to support poor barangays in Makati

By Alcuin Papa and Tarra Quismundo

WHETHER they like it or not, rich barangays in Makati will soon be giving away part of their budget to fund projects of the city's smaller barangays.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay has come up with a new budget-sharing scheme, dubbed "Paluwagan sa Barangay," in response to the appeal of smaller barangays for a larger budget.

The Association of Barangay Chairmen in Makati City, headed by Councilor Rodolfo Sese, is still threshing out issues regarding the project before announcing when it would be implemented.

The Commission on Audit has recently approved the proposal.

Under the new scheme, each barangay in Makati, except exclusive villages like Bel-Air, will submit their list of priority projects to the Makati City Council.

The projects will be randomly selected by the city's Department of Engineering and Public Works. The size of budget allocated for barangay-based projects will determine the number of projects to be approved.

The cost of one barangay's project will be equally divided among the 32 barangays, including the rich barangays. For instance, each barangay will give P625,000 from its own budget to finance another barangay's project that costs P20 million. In effect, the barangay undertaking the project will not spend a single centavo.

At present, the budget of each of the 33 barangays is determined by its real property tax share and Internal Revenue Allotment. Thus, wealthier barangays receive bigger budget allocation, while smaller barangays get smaller budget.

Each year, a different barangay will be chosen to benefit from the "Paluwagan sa Barangay" budget scheme.

BINAY

'Kapirasong Gubat' stopped

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court yesterday banned a movie outfit from showing the film "Kapirasong Gubat sa Gitna ng Dagat" after the leading actress, Kristina "KC" Castillo, was accused of violating a valid contract with another movie outfit.

Manila RTC Branch 7 Judge Enrico Lanzanas issued a 72-hour temporary restraining order which stopped the showing of the film. He also directed the raffling of the case filed by Milagros Pascual of El Niño Films today.

Pascual is seeking at least P2 million in damages and attorney's fees from the LED Cinema Inc., which produced "Kapirasong Gubat."

In a 5-page complaint dated May 6, Pascual said Castillo entered into a contract with the Manila-based El Niño on April 16, 2002 to act in six full length motion pictures.

Castillo, she charged, violated the contract by allowing herself to appear in "Kapirasong Gubat" produced by Led Cinema without the consent of El Niño. ***Jerome Aning***

Sick man calling on Good Samaritans

CONRADO Buena, 45, of 567 Saniboy St., Barangay Hulo, Mandaluyong City is suffering from severe end-stage renal disease.

The jobless father badly needs help.

Both his diseased kidneys are malfunctioning.

He has been operated on at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute where he has been fitted a tube in his stomach for peritoneal dialysis.

"*Lubha pong mabigat sa dahilang wala akong pambili ng gamot*," he appealed in a letter sent to the INQUIRER.

He is calling on Good Samaritans to help defray his medical expenses, as he has been jobless because of his ailment. His wife is earning only the minimum wage which is not enough to support his four children.

Concerned parties may call tel. No. 5319490 and ask for Leonila Abante.

Two labor arbiters fall in entrapment

By Philip Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested yesterday two Department of Labor and Employment arbiters and an alleged labor leader for demanding P500,000 from a motor parts company owner in exchange for a favorable ruling in a labor case.

Lawyer Fermin Nasol, NBI deputy director for special investigation services, said labor arbiters Wilfredo Santos, 58, of Biñan Laguna, and Darrow Odsey, 38, of Baguio City, and labor leader Jaime Babon, were arrested in an entrapment operation in a Manila restaurant on Monday night.

Lawyer Oscar L. Embido, of the NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division, said his men acted on the complaint of Grace Yao of the Benison Motors Corp. who accused the suspects of extortion.

Embido said it all started in April when Babon, 47, said to be vice president of the Lakas Manggagawa Sa Pilipinas, led Benison workers to go on strike "without proper notice" at their store in Pasay City.

The three will be charged with robbery with extortion, while additional graft charges will be filed against the two labor arbiters, Embido said.

Wife loses child to addict

HOUSEWIFE Menguiluz Mamburan, 34, left her 10-month-old baby girl in the care of her neighbor in Sta. Cruz, Manila while she did her laundry Monday night.

She's now left looking for her baby.

Mamburan's neighbor turned out to be a drug addict and he ran away with the baby before the poor housewife could finish her chores.

Police are now hunting down Cesar Onoya, 32, of 188 6th Ave. in Kalookan City after he kidnapped Baby Rose Mamburan.

Spo2 Mario Salonga of the Western Police District-General Assignments Section said Onoya's own mother had admitted his son is hooked into drugs.

The suspect's mother confirmed that his son had tried to sell children before.

"Because she (Mamburan) had known the suspect for nearly a year, she agreed and gave Onoya her child," the case investigator said. ***Philip Tubeza and Edson Tandoc***

3rd jail death in 5 days

REYNALDO B. Punit, 29, became the third inmate to die at the Manila City Jail in the last five days. He had complained of chest pains but Punit did not make it to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center on Rizal Avenue Tuesday afternoon.

Robbery suspect Eduardo Abud, 29, a jail inmate, died allegedly of tuberculosis on Tuesday night. On Saturday afternoon, robbery suspect and MCJ inmate Agahub C. Olagario, 26, died after complaining of abdominal pains and difficulty in urinating. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Poblador, 61

RAY D. Poblador, 61, of Bacolod City, died of cardiac respiratory failure on May 3.

He is survived by wife, Ma. Clementina Yulo-Poblador, children Anthony, Ray, Henry Josue III, Tina Marie and Marjorie, son-in-law Avenel Francisco and Sabino de Leon III, daughter-in-law Edge Garcia, grandchildren AJ and Jose Artine and relatives. He will be interred today at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9 a.m. Mass at the Rizal Funeral Homes, Pasay City.

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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	FAT 16 KOOL JACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
NOVALICHES Q.C.	PARTY-Z-POLE JAMM EDGE	THE DAWN MAY 28 ☎936.9757
KAMPO 2088	MUSIK JIVE NEXT PAGE	☎373.5110
TIA MARIA'S	7TH ELEMENT SEMICAST	☎522-0429
FOREST	RICHARD W/ A. D.	☎400-7438/39

OUTSIDE METRO MANILA

BIÑAN, LAGUNA	ICE KENDI MR.ROXY	THE DAWN MAY 23 ☎(049) 511.7268
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THURSDAY MAY 09 912-8983

Gov't should play Abu Sayyaf's game

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

MARIKINA City is probably the cleanest and most orderly city in the country, thanks to former Mayor Bayani Fernando, and his wife, Marides, the incumbent mayor.

The police are doing their job because they see that their mayor is doing hers. The follow-the-leader syndrome is working in Marikina City.

However, the city also has its downside: its prosecution service, which is not local but national, has not kept up with the city government's efficiency.

***

As the Tagalogs are wont to say, "Sa bawat gubat may ahas" (in every forest there is a snake)." Marikina is the forest, the city prosecution office the snake.

I'm not saying that the chief city prosecutor, Loreto Aceo, is a snake. He's an anomaly in a city that is rich with the possibility of being great.

Aceo's office recently ordered the release of a holdup suspect, Ronnel Cuadro, but ordered the detention of his co-accused, Roberto Cleofas, who is the least guilty in the robbery case. Aceo was pointed to as the leader of a three-man holdup gang that rode on a taxi.

***

Why? Because Cuadro happens to be the driver of a taxicab owned by the son of the chief city prosecutor!

In fact, the cab used in the robbery, Richard Irene Adrian Taxi (with plate PVV 835), should have been impounded as evidence, but it was not. Aceo's office also allegedly ordered the cab released.

The Department of Justice, to which Aceo belongs, should investigate him for his highly disgraceful conduct.

***

Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya threatened to kill the American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse the terrorist group is holding hostage in the mountains of Basilan.

No amount of pleading with the group will make its members soften up. They're the most merciless and barbaric group that has walked the face of the earth.

The only way to deal with this bunch of bastards is for the government to play their kind of game.

***

The Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon Gang, another kidnap for ransom gang in another part of Morolandia, are adjunct units of the Moro Islamic Libertion Front (MILF), although they have been publicly disowned by the rebel group.

The Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon are considered "lost commands" of the MILF. The label is fiction because the two terrorist groups are very much a part of the MILF. In fact, when the Abu Sayyafs are cornered, they seek sanctuary in MILF-held areas so pursuing government troops would stop in their tracks.

The government can also organize its own lost command units. Their mission would be to kidnap the relatives of the Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon Gang.

***

Those bastards have sons, daughters, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and cousins. These people can be held hostage by government lost command units.

Unless they're damn inefficient, the intelligence units of the military and the police have, by now, identified close relatives of the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon Gang.

The government can always disown its lost command units which can be composed of former military or dismissed policemen.

***

If the Abu Sayyafs make good their threat to kill the American and Filipino hostages, why, their relatives can suffer the same fate!

This is not the time to be squeamish in dealing with those animals.

Appealing to reason will just be a waste of time. Animals don't have the faculty of reasoning.

***

A couple of years ago, a Catholic church in Davao City was bombed. Several churchgoers were killed and scores were injured in the grenade blast.

The grenade thrower or throwers were identified as Muslims.

A few hours later, the mosque was bombed, resulting in the killing or wounding of scores of Muslim worshippers.

***

You know what? The bombing of Christian churches in the city stopped.

Why? Because the city's Muslim community, apparently enraged at the death of its innocent members in the instant retaliation, most probably banished or killed the perpetrators of the bombing of the Catholic church.

As a saying goes, it takes two to tango.

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11 Tony nominations for 'Millie'

NEW YORK—"Thoroughly Modern Millie," the tale of an ambitious 1920s flapper in search of a wealthy husband, received 11 Tony Awards nominations Monday, while the fairy tale musical "Into the Woods" and the provocatively titled "Urinetown" got 10.

"Morning's at Seven," the gently nostalgic story of family squabbles, received nine nominations, with five of the nine going to either the featured actor or featured actress category.

Edward Albee's "The Goa;t" "Fortune's Fool," an adaptation of a comedy by Ivan Turgenev; "Metamorphoses," taken from the classic myths of Ovid; and "Topdog/Underdog," Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer-winning drama about sibling rivalry, were the nominees for best play.

Nominated as best musical were "Urinetown," where people have to pay to go to the bathroom; the Abba-inspired "Mamma Mia!," and two musicals based on movies, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Sweet Smell of Success," the story of a vicious New York gossip columnist.

In the revival-play category, the shows that will vie for the Tony will be Noel Coward's "Private Lives;" the British farce "Noises Off;" "The Crucible," Arthur Miller's take on the Salem witch trials; and "Morning's at Seven."

In the hotly contested best-actor category, the nominees were Alan Bates, "Fortune's Fool;" Billy Crudup as the physically deformed title character in "The Elephant Man;" Liam Neeson as a conflicted farmer in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible;" Alan Rickman in "Private Lives;" and Jeffrey Wright in "Topdog/Underdog."

Kate Burton received two Tony nominations—one in the actress category and a second in featured-actress slot. She was nominated for playing "Hedda Gabler" in a revival of the Ibsen classic and for portraying a sympathetic English actress in "The Elephant Man."

Burton's competition for best actress: Lindsay Duncan, "Private Lives;" Laura Linney, "The Crucible;" Helen Mirren, "Dance of Death;" and Mercedes Ruehl, "The Goat."

Actor-musical nominations went to Gavin Creel, "Thoroughly Modern Millie;" the veteran John Cullum, "Urinetown;" John Lithgow, "Sweet Smell of Success;" John McMartin, "Into the Woods;" and Patrick Wilson, "Oklahoma!"

Two actresses from "Urinetown," Nancy Opel and Jennifer Laura Thompson, will compete against each other for the actress-musical prize.

AP

The product of Pinky's blood, sweat and tears

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MY HEART goes out to *ma cherie amie* **Pinky Amador**, who filed a coercion case against the officers of Ray Burton Development Corp.

Due to miscommunication regarding payments, Pinky was forced to vacate her condominium unit at The Elizabeth Place. Pinky says she has the supporting papers to prove that she has been religiously paying the monthly amortization since August 2001. Only when she read in the papers that The Elizabeth Place has pending cases did she decide to hold the amortization starting April and to deposit all payments in a trust account until the cases had been resolved and the title could be given to her free of any impediment.

I know how hard Pinky has been working all these years to fulfill her dream of having her own place. It's the product of her blood, sweat and tears. We were guests on "Sis" when the topic was "Independent Women." In between takes, Pinky and I swapped stories about the joys and woes of living alone.

When Pinky called me to tell me about the unjust treatment she got from Elizabeth Place developers, I tried to cheer her up: "How could they accuse you of not paying? What's a few thousand bucks compared to the British pounds you've earned (in 'Miss Saigon')? With your accomplishments, you can buy not just a unit in ELizabeth Place but a Queen Elizabeth type of flat in London."

Pinky let out a faint laugh but I know that in time she will be having the last laugh.

Fearless forecast

I ATTENDED the talent competition of Miss Philippines 2002 at the Culture Club. Allow me to make a fearless forecast of who I think will win.

Miss Talent: **Marjorie Akil**, a **Pops Fernandez** look-alike who sang like a pro; **Joan Nuestro**, who did a unique *palayok* stepping dance number; or **Jennifer Novo**, who displayed her tap dancing skills.

Miss Photogenic: **Justine Gabionza** or **April Rose Perez** or **Gina Ritter**.

Best in swimsuit: **Sheryll Ducusin** or **April Rose Perez**.

Coronation night will be on May 12 at the UP Theater. You can also watch the pageant on ABS-CBN 2 at 9:30 p.m.

Mom talk

IN time for Mother's Day, **Maricel Laxa-Panglinan** will Launch her book "Mommy Talk" tomorrow, May 10, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Magellan Room of Discovery Suites.

Maricel is one of the few actresses who has really mastered the art of motherhood. She's a mom first and foremost. That's a role she relishes more than all her movie roles.

I'm sure moms like me will learn a lot from her book on how not to turn mothering into smothering.

Happy MOther's Day to all moms, especially to my mom! May we all keep growing up with our kids and know instinctively when being a mother ends and being a friend to our children begins.

For feedback, e-mail luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

NEW REGGAE-ROCK GROUP AT DISH

Indio, a new reggae-rock group, takes centerstage every Thursday night at Dish at the 3rd level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall. Also watch out for acoustic nights with Passage and renowned folk singer Noel Cabangon on Sundays. The Dish line-up for May includes South Border on Wednesdays (May 15, 22 and 29) with LOC on May 22 and 29, Rage on May 11 and Pido With Take One and Elements on May 10, 17, 24 and 31, Next Level on Saturdays (May 11, 18 and 25), with Niño Alejandro on May 18 and 25. Hyperbeat performs on Mondays (May 13, 20 and 27) while Spirit of '67 sings on Tuesdays (May 14, 21 and 28). Popular teen singer Michelle Branch who is now making waves in the MTV Channel, will hold a one-night show at Dish on May 15.

Hard Rock mounts big dance event

SHOWS

R&B and Hip-hop aficionados will have an instant access to a non-stop dance party this May as Hard Rock Café mounts the biggest dancing event with Disco Mix Club (Comic) Philippines.

Dubbed as "The Pink Episode (DMC's Natural High)" the party gathers the funkiest, coolest and sexiest female DJs, rappers, and dancers in the country today.

The first leg will kick off on May 10, from midnight onwards. The dance party promises a lot of energy as it features an all-female cast headed by DJs Tease, Tiny, J-Rock and Sugar.

Emcees are Janna and L Smith. Hot MC lady dancers Cherry, Michelle, Joanne, Nadine and Janelle will render backup to the DJs and MCs.

Other shows are on May 24, June 7 and 21. Entrance to the party is P300 inclusive of two standard drinks.

On regular nights, enjoy other bands at Hard Rock—Pido with Take One on Mondays, Big on Tuesdays, Route 70 and LOC on Wednesdays, with Freestyle on May 22 and 29, The Company and Prime Council on Thursdays, Tribe of Levi on Fridays, Passage on Saturdays and 9MM on Sundays.

For inquiries and reservations, call Hard Rock Café at 893-4661 to 64.

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C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HARDBALL
CINEMA-6	BENEATH LOCHNESS
CINEMA-7	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-12	K-PAX
CINEMA-14	JASON X
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	HARDBALL
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	JASON X
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

K-PAX - P13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SPIDERMAN - GP 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20	HARDBALL - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	JASON X - P13 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	SPIDERMAN - GP 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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2 SPIDERMAN
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM May 10, 2002 GIFT OF LOVE Concert (Cherina Ducusin) 8:00 pm / May 11, 2002 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 pm
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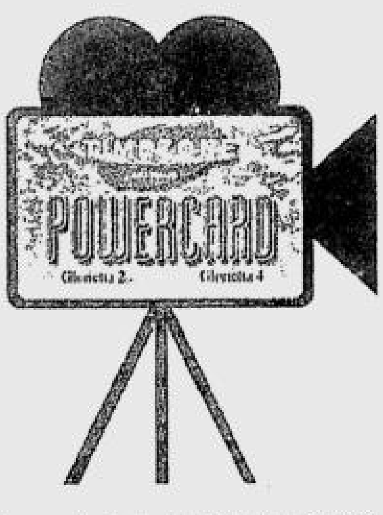

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*Promo period is from April11 to May 31, 2002

Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-221 Series of 2002

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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 VIDEOKE KING	1 SPIDERMAN	4 7 DAYS TO LIVE	1 K-PAX	1 SPIDERMAN
2 SPIDERMAN	2 K-PAX	5 JASON-X	2 SPIDERMAN	2 SPIDERMAN
3 HARDBALL	3 SPIDERMAN 1:40 am/ 2:10 pm/ 4:40/ 7:10/ 9:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SPIDERMAN	3 SPIDERMAN	3 HARDBALL
4 SPIDERMAN		7 HARDBALL	4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1	4 SPIDERMAN
				5 K-PAX

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
The Ayala Events
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

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Mother's Day Events
MAKATI
Mother's Day Fashion Show
Featuring celebrity moms
May 12, 2002
Glorietta Activity Center 3:00pm
ALABANG
Mother's Day Concert
featuring Ogie Alcasid
May 12, 2002
Town Plaza 7:00pm
CEBU
Mother's Day Gifts
May 12, 2002
For every P300 minimum single purchase, get a rose with a note
Win exciting household appliances
Discounts & freebies at participating stores

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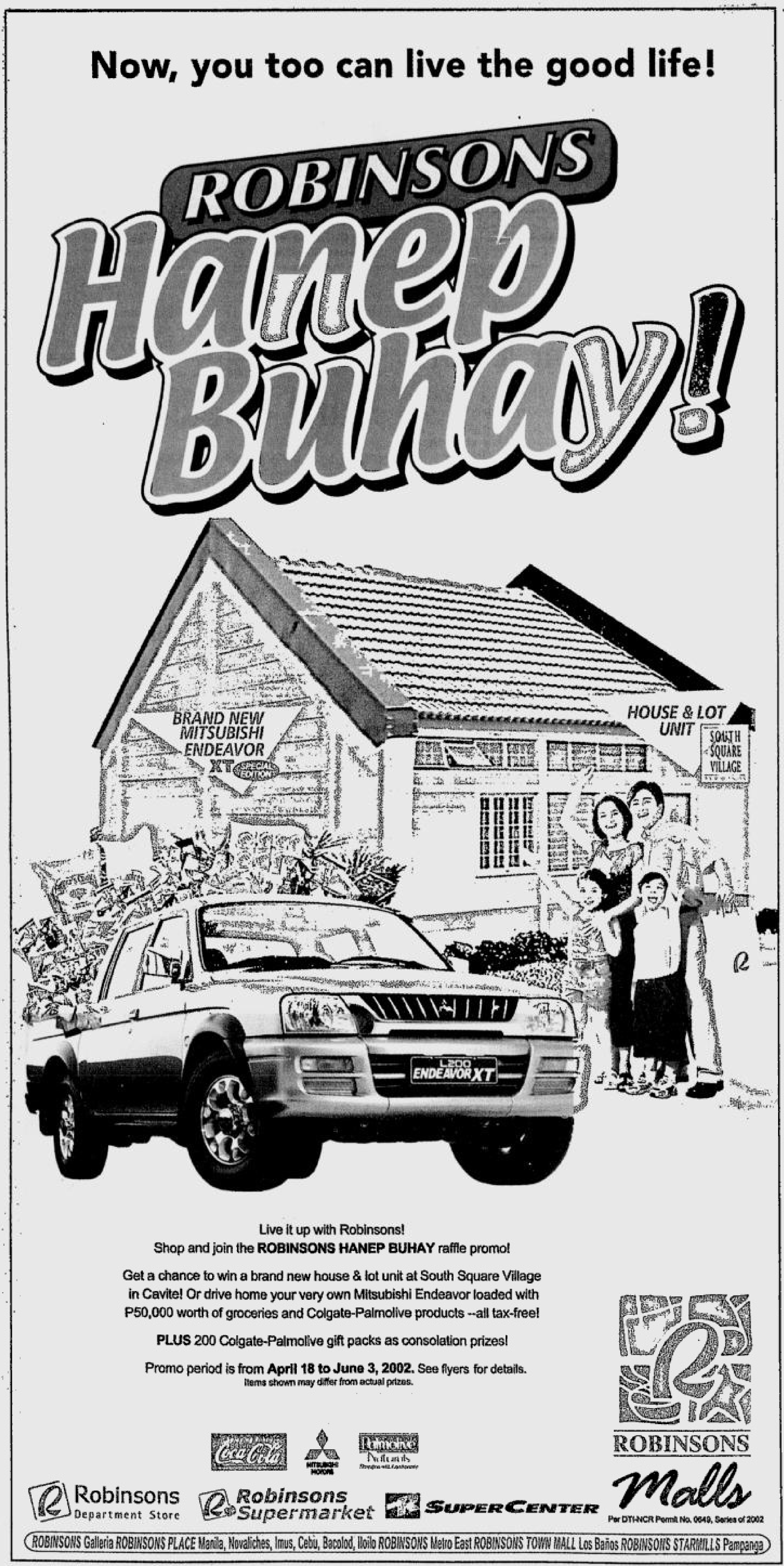
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PLUS 200 Colgate-Palmolive gift packs as consolation prizes!

Promo period is from **April 18 to June 3, 2002.** See flyers for details.
Items shown may differ from actual prizes.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0649, Series of 2002

ROBINSONS Galleria ROBINSONS PLACE Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo ROBINSONS Metro East ROBINSONS TOWN MALL Los Baños ROBINSONS STARMILLS Pampanga

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Unique selling prepositions in the movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YEARS ago, producers of local movies could trot out the nth version of a trendy film format or pairing of a popular love team, and expect fans to loyally turn up in droves.

These days, however, moviegoers are far less patient with overly familiar stuff, and are on the lookout for fresh concepts and "unique selling propositions" in the films they watch. So, our film people have to work much harder to come up with hits.

Take a look at these current or coming local film attractions:

In "Videoke King," action star **Robin Padilla** gives his stunts a rest and banks instead on his singing and comedic talents. That's a really big switch, so some viewers want to catch the movie to see if the erstwhile action hero can pass muster in these two relatively unfamiliar fields.

Vilma Santos has resumed shooting her scenes in "Dekada '70," which won't be seen until the Metro Manila Film Festival at the end of the year. This early, however, the production is positioning itself as a unique treat because it's Vilma's first starrer in years.

It's also banking a lot on the fact that its script is based on **Lualhati Bautista**'s prize winning novel, and it is being likened in dramatic intensity to "Anak," a big popular, and critical hit that also starred Vilma.

REVILLA

For his part, **Bong Revilla** is trying to energize his movie career with a comedy-action movie that costars him with the season's hottest nymphet, **Assunta de Rossi**. The people behind the production hope that its mix of action, sexiness and laughs will prove to be a winning combination at the tills.

Rudy Fernandez is another action star who hasn't made waves in show biz in a long time. His bid for renewed popularity pairs him on TV with the sexy and ditzy **Rosanna Roces**. Rosanna is older than Assunta, so it's likely that her project with Rudy will be positioned to appeal to more mature moviegoers. Of course, the hope is that it will be so lively and entertaining that even late-teeners and young-adults will want to see this first-ever Rudy-Rosanna pairing.

Movies on Cinemax

MONDAY, May 20 at 7:45 a.m., "Angela's Ashes." 10:15 a.m., "The Phantom of the Opera." 5:15 p.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 1." 9 p.m. "The Last Producer."

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 a.m., "Steal This Movie." 2 p.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Movies Ever Made." 5:30 p.m., "I Like It Like That." 1:50 a.m., "The Nun's Story."

Wednesday, May 22 at 9:15 a.m., "Sorry, Wrong Number." 6:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: High Wired." 2 a.m., "Scarface."

Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 a.m., "James Dean." 9:45 a.m., "Running On Empty." 3 p.m., "Caught in The Act." 4:30 p.m., "The Master of Ballantrae." 9 p.m., "The Secret Garden."

Friday, May 24 at 11:15 a.m., "Millennium Man." 2:15 p.m., "Psycho." 4 p.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Goldie Hawn." 1:35 a.m., "Rosemary's Baby."

On HBO

TUESDAY, May 21 at 7:30 a.m., "Baby." 10 p.m., "Sex and the City" 51, "Defining Moments." 12:15 a.m., "Scent of A Woman."

Wednesday, May 22 at 9 p.m., "Erin Brockovich."

Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 a.m., "Songs in Ordinary Time." 2:30 p.m., "Simon Sez." 1:45 a.m., "Hefner: Unauthorized."

Friday, May 24 at 6:30 a.m., "Sirens."

Focus on Oprah Winfrey

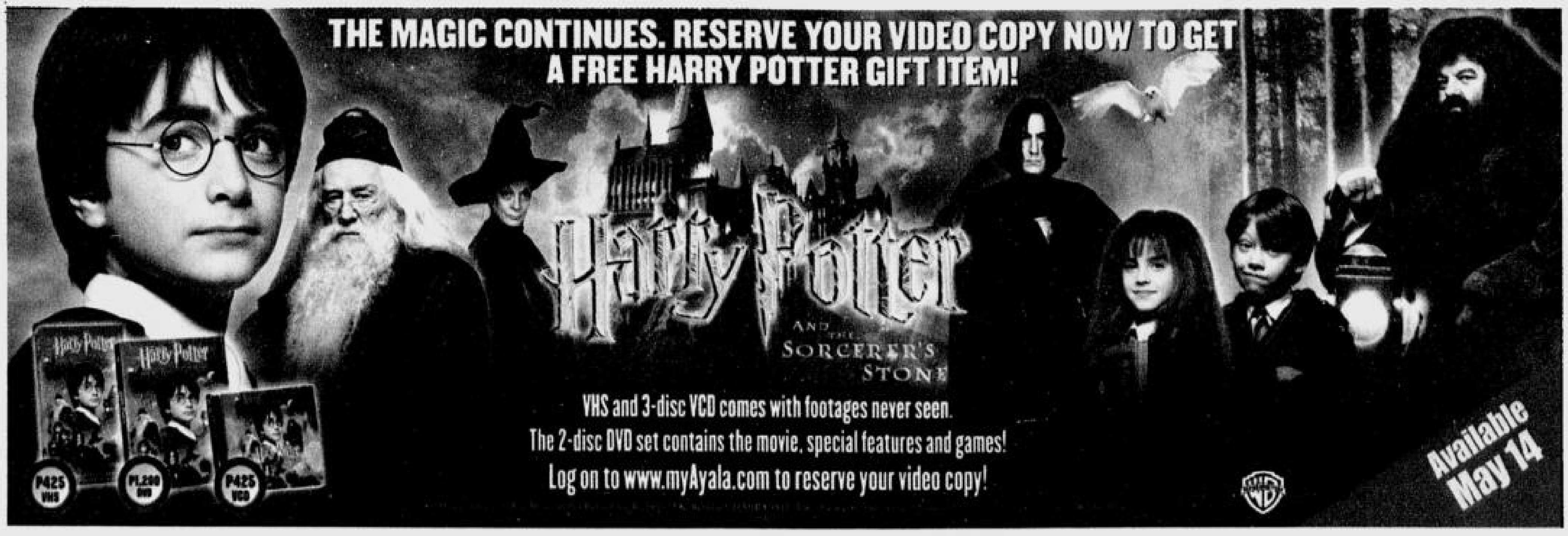
IN THE Philippines, "Oprah" airs from Tuesday to Friday at 10:30 p.m. on Studio 23. Its host-producer, **Oprah Winfrey**, is one of the most popular and powerful women on US TV. But she's served notice that, although her show is still flying high, she fully intends to host and produce it only until 2006.

When that time comes, Winfrey will be giving up millions of dollars in additional earnings. As the highest-grossing first-run program in syndication, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" earns an estimated $300 in a year!

Though the show started out by tackling a wide range of topics, it has evolved into a focus on "life strategies," inspiring its loyal viewers to transform their lives.

Favorite episodes include makeovers that lift sagging self-esteem, breakthrough discussions on health, home, work and other important matters, stress on the importance of reading, and on making a difference in other people's lives.

When Winfrey started taking these "serious" tacks, she was warned that they would turn viewers off in droves. But the show's consistently high ratings prove that viewers appreciate being taken seriously, so Oprah's faith in people has been vindicated anew.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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◉ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

French firm bags spot market deal

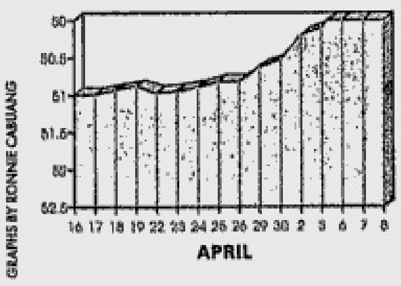
NATIONAL Power Corp. is set to award to Alstom Philippines Inc. a contract to supply and install a system to run the Philippines' planned wholesale electricity spot market.

A government evaluation committee showed that Alstom Philippines, a unit of the French industrial group Alstom, has the highest evaluated bid score among the four proposals that were submitted, an energy department statement said. The department did not disclose the cost of Alstom's interim market management system. *AFP*

Vehicle sales up 5.9% in first 4 months

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 49.82 $

As of 5 p.m., May 8, 2002

¥ 128.38 -$ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 8, 2002

GOLD: $311.10/ 311.60

per ounce Hong Kong, May 8, 2002

Shares up slightly

SHARE prices rose slightly yesterday in lackluster trade, with many investors keeping to the sidelines due to a lack of fresh leads, brokers said.

"There's not much activity since investors are on the sidelines," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities. "I think it will be the same story for the rest of the week."

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 1.96 points to close at 1,345.79.

Turnover was thin at 119.37 million shares worth P613.89 million from Tuesday's 444.41 million shares valued at P337.01 million. *AFP*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VEHICLE sales rose 5.9 percent in the first four months of 2002 compared with the same period last year, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of Philippines Inc. said yesterday.

However, assemblers remained skeptical on the industry's growth prospects due to the Department of Trade and Industry's lack of political will on the industry's plea to ban the importation of used vehicles particularly in the Subic.

The assemblers' group said vehicle sales between January and April climbed to 24,496 units from 23,134 a year earlier.

Vehicle sales in April stood at 6,511 units, up 27 percent from the same month a year ago, but still 0.7 percent lower than the total units sold in March 2002.

Sales of commercial vehicles in the four months to April rose 7.5 percent to 17,272 units, with sales in April alone surging 44 percent to 4,984 units from the year-ago month's 3,471.

Total passenger cars sold in the four months to April was up 2.2 percent to 7,224 units. Sales for April alone was down 7.4 percent to 1,527 units and off sharply from the 2,016 units sold in March.

Commercial vehicles accounted for 70 percent of total sales.

Sales were driven to higher ground by new model introductions—particularly the Nissan QRV and the latest Honda CR-V—as well as affordable financing to buyers.

But Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. senior manager for marketing services Froilen Dytianquin cautioned that the positive sales data did not reflect the true state of the industry.

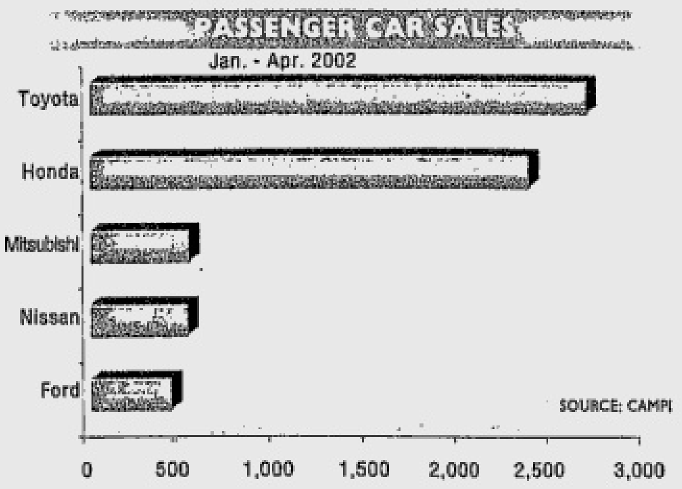
Dytianquin said the 6-percent growth in sales was nothing to crow about, considering the industry was coming from a low base last year when the industry was hit by labor strikes and assemblers were in a depletion mode as they clear up more inventory room for new models.

He said Mitsubishi, the country's second largest assembler with a 21-percent market share or 5,100 units sold in the first four months, has maintained its projection of flat sales growth this year.

A top official of a Japanese assembler said the industry's viability remained under threat by the unabated influx of pre-owned vehicles in the Subic freeport zone due to the

VEHICLE/ B5

PASSENGER CAR SALES



SOURCE: CAMPI

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Bangko Sentral leaves interest rates unchanged

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral kept interest rates unchanged yesterday and said these could stay at current 10-year lows until the end of the year if inflation remained under control.

"The expectation of benign inflation in the coming months allows us to take a neutral stance so as not to derail economic recovery efforts," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters after a meeting of the central bank's policy-making Monetary Board.

"If inflation is under control, we definitely can keep interest rates at current levels for the rest of the year," he added.

The decision to leave the bank's overnight interest rates, its main policy tool, untouched was widely expected after the government announced on Monday that annual inflation in April was flat from the previous month at 3.6 percent.

There had been some worries that inflation could pick up because of volatile oil prices and that the bank would raise its key overnight borrowing rate from 7 percent, the lowest since 1992, and its overnight lending rate of 9.25 percent.

Economists said after the latest inflation data that they did not expect price pressure to rise any time soon.

They said there might be a slight uptick later in the year because of the possibility of the El Niño weather cycle affecting crops and because of oil prices.

But inflation should remain well within, if not below, the government's forecast range of 5-6 percent for the full year, they said.

Buenaventura also referred to the overnight decision by the US Federal Reserve to hold its rates steady. "That has provided (the central bank) some scope for maintaining its policy rates," he said. ***With Inquirer wires***

TAX ON INTEREST INCOME

Gov't to check banks' remittances

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is suspecting banks of inaccurately remitting the taxes withheld on interest income from deposits, judging from a declining trend in the government's collection in recent years.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to require lenders to submit a more detailed report of their deposits to determine whether the correct taxes were being paid.

Sources said Camacho, a former banker, had expressed disappointment recently on the level of bank collection of the 20-percent withholding tax on interest income from deposits.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that it would be easy to compute whether the taxes paid by banks on their peso and dollar deposits were accurate. He said the items must be unbundled so the government could monitor the payments.

Commissioner Rene Bañez of the Bureau of Internal Revenue said in an interview that the BIR has no way of determining whether the banks were remitting the accurate level of withholding taxes given the strict law on secrecy of deposits.

Of the P388 billion in taxes collected by the BIR in 2001, taxes from deposit accounts amounted to about P12 billion, down from P16 billion the previous year. This year, bank deposits must contribute P11.967 billion for the BIR to meet its target of P447.556 billion.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 117, Pasay City

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARATION
OF INSOLVENCY OF MERCEDES CHUA
DOING BUSINESS UNDER TH NAME
AND STYLE OF 'BENISON MOTORS'

SP. PROC. NO. 02-0017

MERCEDES CHUA,
Petitioner

O R D E R

A verified petition has been filed by *MERCEDES CHUA*, praying that upon filing the petition, an order be issued declaring her as an insolvent person. It appearing that the petition is sufficient in form and substance, petitioner Mercedes Chua is hereby declared *INSOLVENT*.

Accordingly, Sheriff Reynaldo Mulat is hereby directed to take possession of, and safely keep until the appointment of a receiver or assignee, all the deeds, vouchers, books of account, papers, notes, bonds, bills and securities of the petitioner and all her real and personal property, estate and effects, except such as may be by law exempt from execution.

Payment to the petitioner of any debts due to her and the delivery to the petitioner, or any person acting for her, of any property belonging to her, and the transfer of any property by her, is hereby prohibited.

A meeting of all creditors for the purpose of choosing assignee of the estate will be held on 3 June 2002 at 2:00 O'clock in the afternoon at the courtroom of this branch.

Let this order be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer for three (3) consecutive weeks before 3 June 2002.

SO ORDERED.

Given in chambers, this 18th day of April 2002, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

HENRICK F. GINGOYON
Judge

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RENAISSANCE

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE LECTURE SERIES
May 9, 2002 (Thursday)
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
SGV I & 2 Room, G/F, AIM Bldg., Makati City

5:30 - 8:00 pm MID-LIFE CHALLENGE

Medical-Psychological
by Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez, MD
Psychiatrist, Philippine Heart Center

Psycho-Spiritual
by Ms. Marihi M. Garcia
Co-Founder, Bethesda Spring of Hope Healing Ministry

THE SCIENCE OF CREATIVITY
(Sponsored by Batches 1980 - 1989)
by Elizabeth MacDonald

RICH DAD, POOR DAD
(Sponsored by Batches 1990-1999)
Lecturer: Frank O. Borromeo
President & CEO
Asian Capital Equities, Inc.
Philippine franchise holder
for Rich Man Poor Dad
Series and Cashflow games)

Reactor: Thads Bentulan, MBM '91
Columnist, Business World

:00 pm BEER Pub (sponsored by AAAIM

HOMECOMING NIGHT
May 10, 2002 (Friday)
5:00 p.m. to 12:00 mn.
NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

5:00 pm OPENING OF EXHIBITS
DISPLAY OF VINTAGE CARS
REGISTRATION
7:00 pm PROGRAM PROPER
Invocation
Production Number
Welcome Remarks . . . . . . Oscar Pobre
Chairman
Organizing Committee
Message from the
AIM Alumni Foundation . . AlejoValdes Mayoralgo
Director, AIM Alumni Foundation
Inspirational Speech . . . . . . Eduardo A. Morató
Dean of the Institute

DINNER / Spirit of 67 (First Set)
Keynote Speech . . . . Roberto F. de Ocampo
President, AIM
Presentation of Honoree batches
MBM '72, MBM '77, and MM '77
Special Number: Tina Turner
Awarding of Golf Winners
- AIM President's Cup
- 5th AIM Challenge Cup
AIM Jack Nicklaus Fashion Parade
Announcement of "Man of the Night"
Mitch Valdes Sketch
Closing Production Number
Closing Remarks . . . . Omy Yuptinchay
Vice Chairman
Organizing Committee
Spirit of 67 (Second set)
Raffle
12:00 mn End

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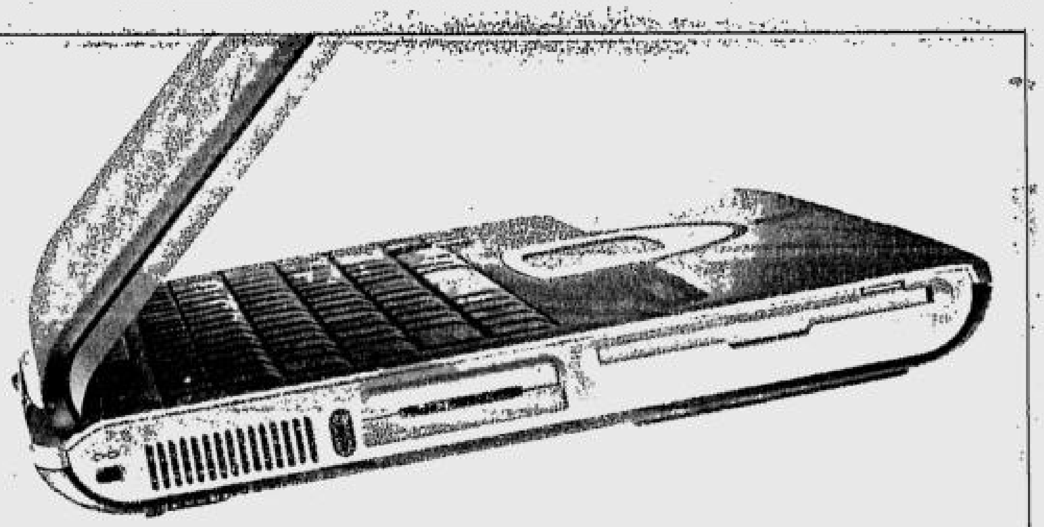

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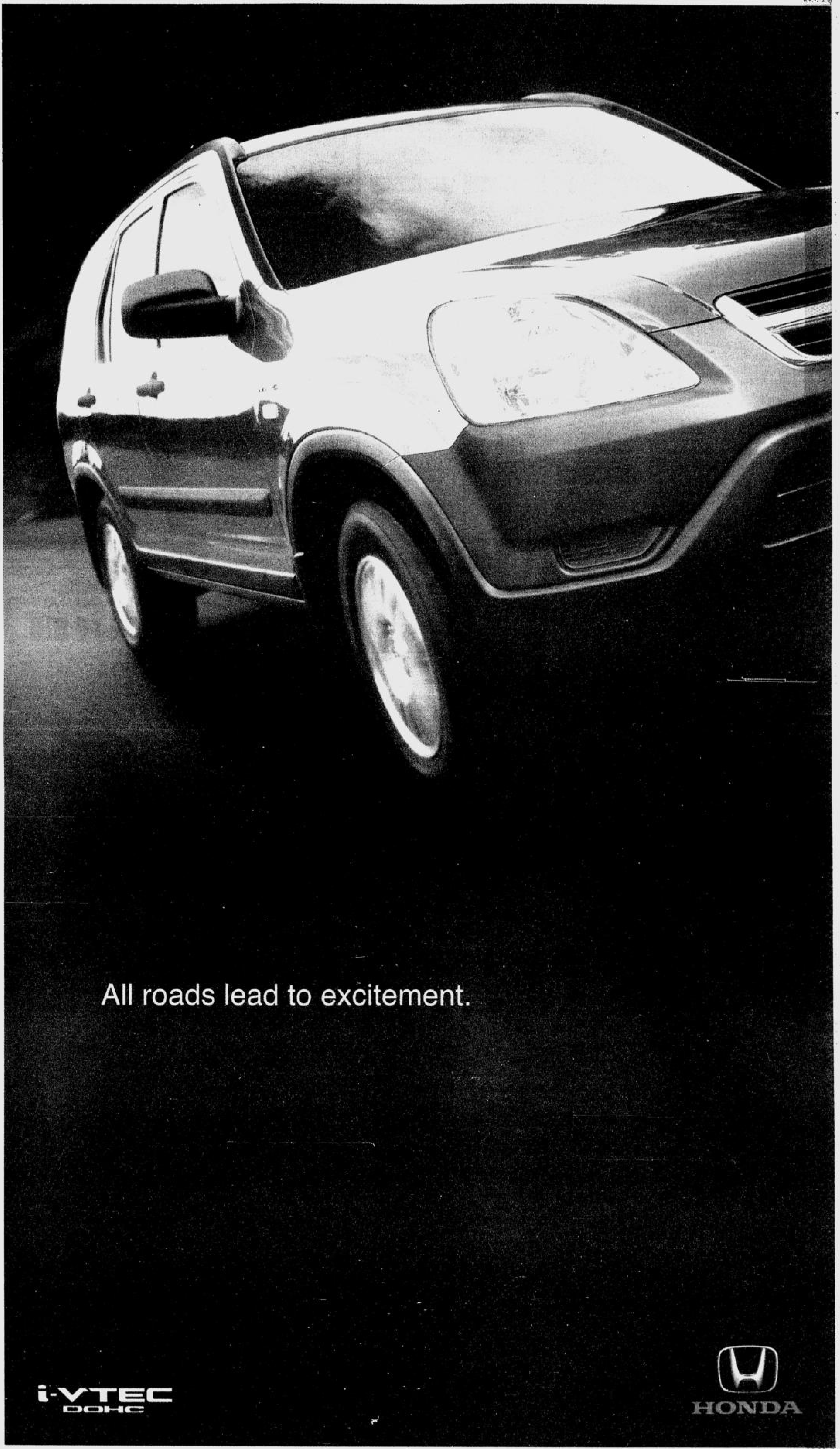
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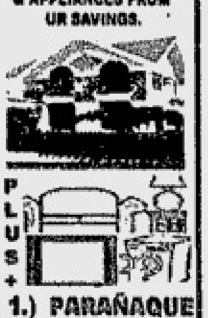

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The Asian Development Bank ("ADB") is inviting bids for the supply and delivery of one set of Multi-point Videoconferencing Gateway and Bridge.

To be qualified for the bidding: (i) the bidder shall be from a member country of ADB, and (ii) the multi-point videoconferencing gateway and bridge being offered shall be produced in a member country or countries of ADB; and (iii) the bidder has or is an authorized distributor in the Philippines of the product being offered who has the resources to provide parts, labor and manpower during the one-year warranty period.

The bid documents may be obtained from the Head, Procurement Section, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank (Room 1636S) from **7 to 30 May 2002**, during 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable nominal fee of US Dollars Fifty (US$50.00) or Pesos Two Thousand (P2,000.00) in cash or manager's/cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank at ADB's Cashier Section located at Room G241W. A foreign supplier may send the payment in a cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank, in an envelope addressed to:

Head, Procurement Section
Office of Administrative Services
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, Manila
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
0401 Metro Manila, Philippines

Fax Nos.: (632) 636-2577; (632) 631-6899
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The bid documents will be sent to foreign suppliers by air courier.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in amounts prescribed in the bidding documents and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m. on **31 May 2002**. Public bid opening will follow immediately thereafter.

ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation of delivery of bids.

ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of order, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.

(PDI -- May 9, & 10, 2002)

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2000 C.R. Magsaysay Ave, Guadalupe Makati City & 29 Unit 5, Dona Eglantine Mansion, Sierra Madre St, Mandaluyong City. On May 12, 2002 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. respectively be sold at Public Auction at the above address all unredeemed articles pledged during the months of Oct. 2001 & Nov. 2001 whose terms have been expired. (Juan Lenuza & Sons-Licensed Auctioneer)

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HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites direct Internet Service Providers ISP to a public bidding for the PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES WITH 128 Kbps LEASED LINE / DSL on **May 30, 2002** (Thursday) at exactly 1:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue, corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid forms and instructions are available during office hours at the MIS Division, 2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue cor. Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before the pre-bid conference, which is hereby scheduled on Friday, **May 17, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. thru Telephone No. **927-2731** or Fax No. **927-2698**.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGNALAN**
Commissioner and
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(PDI - May 7, 8 & 9, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MARIO M. LACSON has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. 191, Page 40, Book IX, Series 2002 of Notary Public Cesar D. Amoranto of Pasig City
(PDI-April 25, May 2, 9, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 48, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE:
ADOPTION OF THE CHILD
HANZ CHRISTIAN DELA ROSA

SPEC. PROC. NO. 01-102039

MANUEL A. PARSARIO and
ROSA MARIA R. DELA ROSA,
Petitioners.
x----------------------------x

ORDER

In a verified Petition dated 5 October 2001, the above-named spouses-petitioners pray that after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor, Hanz Christian Dela Rosa, be declared as their legally adopted child.

It is alleged in the petition that petitioners has all the qualification and none of the disqualification provided by law to adopt the minor, Hanz Christian Dela Rosa, considering the said child is very close relative by consanguinity within the third civil degree of the petitioner Manuel and Rosa Maria Parsario, and the petitioners financial, economic, physical, moral, spiritual, and other assets to support, rear, care and educate the children is more than enough, sufficient, assured to be utilized for the benefit of the said child. The said minor is the illegitimate child of Racquel D. Dela Rosa, who expressly and voluntarily gave her parental consent and conformity to the adoption of the said child by petitioners.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court sets the hearing of this case on 14 June 2002 at 8:30 in the morning at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 48, Manila. All interested parties are hereby ordered to appear on the said date, time and place to offer their opposition or show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication shall not be later than 01 June 2002 or at least two (2) weeks before the date of hearing.

Let a copy of this Order as well as the Petition and its annexes be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Social Welfare and Development and for their respective representative to appear on the said date and time of hearing. The latter office is hereby ordered to conduct a case study report on the petitioners and the minors and to submit the said report on or before the date of hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.
Manila, 02 May 2002.

NIMFA CUESTA VILCHES
Judge

(PDI—May 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

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(As of Wednesday, May 8, 2002)

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Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	38	37	37	138,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	41	39.5	40	59,600
Philippine National Bank	51	51	50	50	8,700
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27.5	27	27.5	7,600
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Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000
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Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1075	1060	1075	11,890
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ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	8,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.6	270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	655	640	650	86,180
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	1,400,000
Piltel	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	450	450	450	450	319,250
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
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Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.26	1.26	42,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	32,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.55	4.55	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	66,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	32	30	32	1,274,400
RFM Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	4,995,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	49	49.5	1,527,500
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57	56.5	57	262,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,854,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.18	70,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.34	0.37	3,490,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.11	0.07	0.11	3,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	16,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.85	16,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	2,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	7	7	7	7	3,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	11,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	788,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	190,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	150,000
Macroasia Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	250,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,060,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.11	490,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	8,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.43	0.43	3,680,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	12	12	12	12	1,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	9,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	30.5	29	30	945,400
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	910
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	50,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	800	780	780	11,470
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,458,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,060,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	2,060,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,310,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	40,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.8	10,032,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2	2	2	2	113,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
SM Development Corp..	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	436,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	470,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	5,900,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	7,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000

CURRENCIES

May 8, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.092419	1.000000	49.5430
Japan	Yen	0.008544	0.007821	0.3875
United Kingdom	Pound	1.603343	1.467700	72.7143
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140072	0.128222	6.3525
Switzerland	Franc	0.687531	0.629366	31.1807
Canada	Dollar	0.697185	0.638203	31.6185
Singapore	Dollar	0.604548	0.553403	27.4172
Australia	Dollar	0.591136	0.541126	26.8090
Bahrain	Dinar	2.897816	2.652661	131.4208
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291312	0.266667	13.2115
Brunei	Dollar	0.602880	0.551876	27.3416
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025452	0.023299	1.1543
UAE	Dirham	0.297443	0.272279	13.4895
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000788	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.915400	45.3517
Brazil	Real	0.452348	0.414079	20.5147
Denmark	Kroner	0.134576	0.123191	6.1033
India	Rupee	0.022344	0.020454	1.0134
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.287517	0.263193	13.0394
Mexico	New Peso	0.115210	0.105463	5.2250
New Zealand	Dollar	0.490049	0.448591	22.2245
Norway	Kroner	0.131170	0.120073	5.9488
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018237	0.016694	0.8271
South Africa	Rand	0.107300	0.098222	4.8662
Sweden	Kroner	0.106701	0.097674	4.8391
Syria	Pound	0.024827	0.022727	1.1260
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031692	0.029011	1.4373
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001183	0.001083	0.0537

Vehicle sales . . .

From page B1

DTI's failure to stop this trade.

The official said the industry was still waiting for Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II to live up to his commitment to stop the used vehicle imports which he declared as illegal and dangerous to public safety.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. remained the top assembler in the country with a 30-percent market share on sales of 7,447 units in the first four months this year. Isuzu Philippines Corp. was third with 3,298 units sold or 13.5-percent market share. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was fourth with 12.6-percent market share or 3,101 units sold. The Nissan Motor group was fifth with a market share of 8.2 percent or 2,004 units sold.

BDO to tap Tier 2

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank said Tuesday it would tap a $20-million loan from the International Finance Corp. of the World Bank that the IFC could later convert into equity.

The loan has a five-year maturity with a "reduced interest rate," with the IFC given the option to convert the amount into equity in the bank in the third year of the loan.

Banco de Oro is set to list its shares on the stock market this month at an offer price of P20.80 a share to raise P1.85 billion.

"In view of the reduced interest rate, the conversion price will be at a discount to the initial public offering price of the bank, based on the exchange rate at the time of the loan disbursement," the bank said in a statement.

The bank said the loan would qualify as Tier 2 capital under the rules of the central bank, which had been encouraging banks to raise equity through Tier 2 as one option to offset capital deficiencies brought about by bad loans.

The bank, a sister firm of mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., is one of the country's top 10 banks in terms of assets. Its IPO would be the biggest by a local firm in two years.

The deal is subject to final documentation and receipt of all necessary corporate and regulatory approvals by appropriate agencies.

In an interview on Monday, Banco de Oro chair Teresita Sy-Coson said the bank was looking to maximize its large capital base by lending more and building up its treasury business.

Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan said the bank was also looking to acquire existing branches of other banks to expand its network by 10 to 15 branches and as much as 20 branches, depending on how business picked up this year.

Elena R. Torrijos

DISCLOSURES

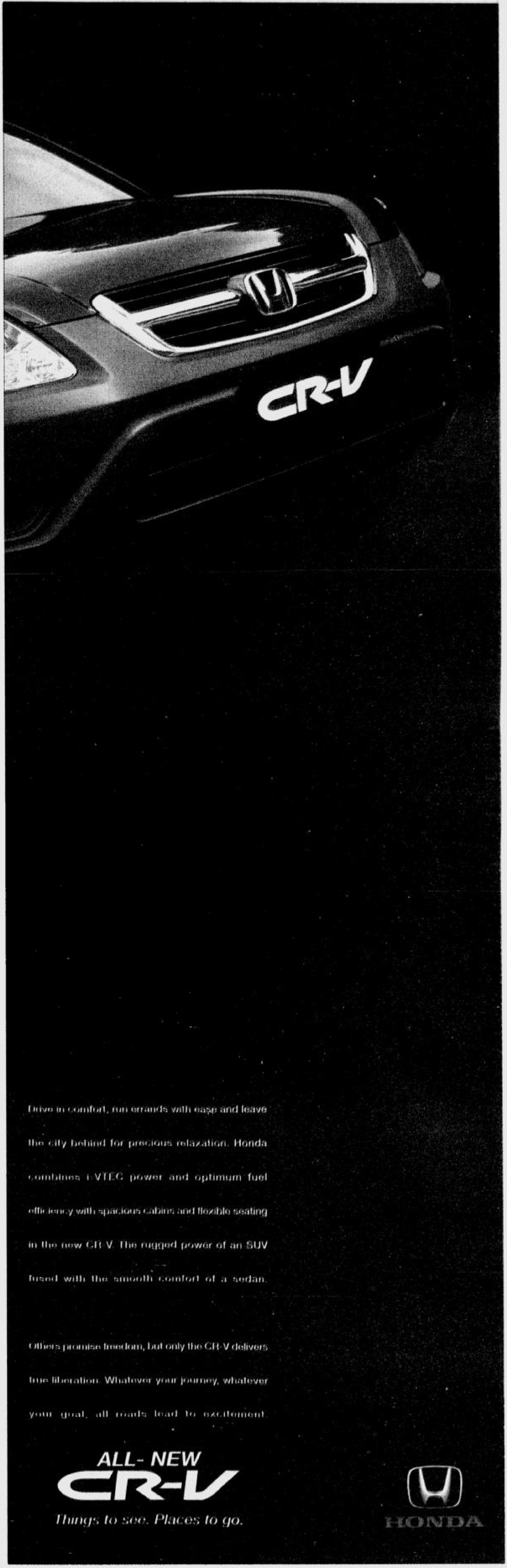
THE OFFER period for trading participants of **Banco de Oro's** initial public offering will be on May 10, 2:30 p.m.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 43,700 of its own shares at P30 each.

* * *

PETRON Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 29, with record date on May 30. The company has declared a 15-centavo-per-share cash dividend payable on July 19 in favor of stockholders as of June 6. The oil firm also announced that it had elected Antonio Pelayo and Ziyad Al-Shiha as its vice presidents. The company said it would buy up to P2 million of its stocks to distribute to its executives as part of their compensation. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***



Drive in comfort, run errands with ease and leave the city behind for precious relaxation. Honda combines i-VTEC power and optimum fuel efficiency with spacious cabins and flexible seating in the new CR-V. The rugged power of an SUV fused with the smooth comfort of a sedan.

Others promise freedom, but only the CR-V delivers true liberation. Whatever your journey, whatever your goal, all roads lead to excitement.

ALL-NEW CR-V
Things to see. Places to go.
HONDA

People, Events & Products

C.I.D.A.
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
& GMM Habitat for Humanity

GMM-HFH, CIDA SEAL PARTNERSHIP

President Eduardo Samonte of Greater Metro Manila Habitat for Humanity Inc (GMM-HfH) receives a check from Ann Germain, team leader and second secretary for project development of Canadian International Development Agency (Cida)-Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for the Eco-Waste Management Project in the Asamba community located in Sitio Mendez, Baesa, Quezon City. Shown witnessing the event, from left, are Menchu Sarmiento, GMM-HfH trustee, Lourdes Padilla, Canada Fund for Local Initiative project coordinator, Dr. Judea Millora, GMM-HfH trustee and founder and president of Zero Kalat sa Kaunlaran, Yoly Sanchez, program administrator of GMM-HfH, Erlinda Saplandante, president of Asamba Hoa, barangay captain Diosdado Almodovar of Barangay Baesa, Quezon City, Ernesto Jarabe of the DENR, Rep. Chuck Mathay of the 2nd District of Quezon City, and Rev. Phil Brewster, GMM-HfH trustee.

THE BEAUTIES OF MYRA 300-E

23 of the country's most beautiful women recently met executives and employees of Unilab, makers of Myra 300-E. The candidates of this year's Binibining Pilipinas visited the offices of Myra 300-E, a major sponsor of the prestigious beauty pageant. One of the lucky candidates will be receiving the brand's corporate award, Myra 300-E Ms Inner Beauty. During the visit, the brand team got to know the candidates better, helping them determine who best embodies the qualities of Myra 300-E and who is most deserving to be named Ms Inner Beauty. The prestigious award went to candidate 17, Katherine Ann Manalo, who was eventually crowned Bb Pilipinas-World. Hosting the breakfast for the candidates were the brand team of Myra 300-E (seated, from left) Mayni Dizon, product assistant, Alvin So, product director, Eva Datol, product manager, and Ernest Lao, senior account manager from DY&R-Alcantara, Myra 300-E's advertising agency.

Clips

Hope for healing marriages

IF YOUR marriage is hurting, or has grown cold and uncaring, the Retrouvaille Program offers you and your spouse hope to help you heal your marriage. The Retrouvaille ("rediscovery") Program provides and environment of hope to couples who are open to rebuild their relationship while extreme stresses of mistrust or unforgiveness are tearing their marriage apart. The healing environment starts with a weekend experience, followed by six half-day post sessions to be scheduled. The program assures participants of confidentiality in all its phases. The Antipolo diocese is offering the Retrouvaille Weekend from May 10 to 12 at the Saldi Formation Center, Taktak Drive, Antipolo, Rizal. For inquiries, call Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361, Bien and Lex at 933-2783/84, Willie and Aleth at 800-5902 or 801-2371, Mar and Armi at 825-2605, or Ike and Flor at 718-0689.

Cancer experts in video seminar series

INTERNATIONAL cancer experts will be featured in a series of video presentation seminars to discuss therapies, causes and prevention of the disease. The series kicks off at the Philippine Trade and Training Center along Roxas Boulevard, corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City on Friday, May 10. The video seminar series is sponsored by Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of Chinese anti-cancer herbal medicine Super Tian Xian Liquid. The video presentations were taped during the 29th Annual Cancer Convention of the US Cancer Control Society. For registration, visit Green and Gold International Exports at Room 307, Solmac Building, 84 Dapitan Street corner Banawe Streets, Quezon City. For more information, call 415-8714, 781-0069, and 781-9370.

CHS HS '81 homecoming

ALUMNI of the College of the Holy Spirit-High School batch 1981 are invited to come and join the fun at the Family Day on May 11, Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12 noon at the CHS Mendiola New Covered Court. There will be a Mass at 7 a.m. Registration will start at 8 a.m. and the program will begin at 9 a.m. For more details, call Suzette Malig-Ayson at 920-3761, Maripi Salvador-Ting at 915-5508, or Cecile Quitangon-Martinez at 633-3988.

SAS Tagudin reunion

THERE will be a reunion on May 11 and 12 of former high school students and graduates of St. Augustine's School, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur. Dubbed "SAS Kidday ken Kablaaw 2002", the affair will not only provide an opportunity to meet and renew ties with former classmates but also to solicit support for the programs that would be undertaken to help the school continue its mission and achieve its vision. Interested parties can confirm their attendance with Loreta Ulpindo-Corpuz (077-7487197, 0919-8260915), Elma Reyes-Follusco (074-4443878), Jane Bang-og-Cosalan (074-4423209, 0919-3283004), Alice Valencia-Hizo (776-1869, 0919-46550349), Mae Zabala-Uclaray (372-3188, 0917-6451784), or Anselma Udayan-Pascual (929-2095, 0917-9943778).

Delight Mom on Mother's Day

HEY, kids, we all know that our moms always do all the work around the house. Why not make Mother's Day a special day for Mom by letting her relax and for a change, why don't you prepare a special meal for her? The San Miguel Culinary Center would like to invite you to a cooking demonstration of easy-to-prepare dishes for Mother's Day. Join us at the Entertainment Center of SM City North Edsa on May 10, Friday at 2 p.m. Special guest and Carne Norte endorser Lani Mercado will share with you some tips. Present any two wrappers of Purefoods-Hormel products in exchange for an entrance stub, and to be able to join the raffle and games. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91 loc. 402, 404 or 405.

RP hosts biggest entertainment techno event

THE PHILIPPINES plays host to the biggest and most comprehensive entertainment technology in the country with the 2nd International Pro Audio, Light, Music and Movie Exhibition and Conference, or PALMM Philippines 2002 to be held from May 9 to 11 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. PALMM 2002 features the latest gizmos and equipment used in the entertainment industry covering professional recording, sound reinforcement, broadcasting technology, music, live sound, theatrical lighting, special effects, movie production, AV technology, replication and duplication and other related products and services which have gone through leaps and bounds in the last few years. During the show, exhibitors will hold seminars, and hold product demos. For more information, call IIR Exhibition Phils. Inc. at 750-8588.

Meg and Forward's Circle of 20

STRUT your stuff and show 'em what you got. Join the Meg & Forward Circle of 20 modeling workshop this summer. Meg and FWD Magazines are looking for real people to be part of a wonder workshop that'll get you started on your way to runway fame. All Meg and FWD Circle of 20 members graduate with a real fashion show, with outstanding members becoming regular models for Meg and FWD Magazines. The workshop is open to male or female models wannabes, 13 to 22 years old, in the high school or college levels and residing in Metro Manila. Participants should submit a certification of approval clearance from school authorities stating their eligibility to join. Submit your photo together with the official application form at the 18th floor of Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Deadline for applications is on May 10. Log on to www.ivegotstyle.net or call Mala or Francis at 631-2859 or 633-4785

CommAsia 2002

2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics Information Technology & E-Commerce Exhibition & Conference

Len delos Reyes, Account Manager
Aries Espinosa, Editor

MESSAGES

I extend my sincerest greetings and felicitations to the people behind the 2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition and Conference "COMMASIA 2002.'

Last year, the holding of the first COMMASIA project has been a great success and has indeed contributed to the advancement of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT). For this year, we hope that this gathering would sustain the fruits of last year's event and build upon the initial partnerships that have been established. As a highly dynamic and fast evolving field, I am sure that the second staging of this endeavor would be more exciting and promising for all local and international stakeholders.

With this is mind, I am with you in inviting everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to explore the numerous possibilities of increasing your company's productivity, raising the quality of your services and generally enjoying the benefits that can be derived from the ICT sector. Lastly, I would like to personally welcome all foreign exhibitors, investors and visitors as well as our local stakeholders to our country. May your continued engagement in our country bring mutual benefits for you and our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I welcome the exhibitors, investors and visitors to the country's most prestigious international communication technology exhibition and conference, "COMMASIA 2002,' which will be held on May 9-11, 2002

HR Exhibitions Philippines Inc., recognized as among the country's foremost organizers of grand international exhibitions, will again host this great business event that is expected to showcase the latest cutting-edge technological advances in communications. With the complete support of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, we have confident expectations that this exhibition will indeed be another successful event that will provide immense opportunities for exhibitors to meet potential clients and broaden the entrepreneurial horizon of the delegates and visitors alike. The wide array of innovations and new ideas that will be displayed in this event will certainly help improve the competitiveness of the country.

I, therefore, exhort the distinguished organizers to continue this great endeavor which contributes to nation building. May the new ideas gained from this event inspire the participants to embark on undertakings that will uplift the economic well being of our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest congratulations to the leadership of the HR Exhibitions Philippines Inc., for having organized COMMASIA 2002-2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition and Conference to be held on May 9-11, 2002 at the World Trade Center, Makati City, Manila.

Undoubtedly, COMMASIA 2002 captures our country's transformation into a knowledge-based society, driven largely by the advances in information and communications technology. Since the major challenges to all developing countries right now is its gradual integration into a highly networked global society, a project like COMMASIA 2002 fills in the gap, for it ensures the free flow of, and equitable access to, knowledge, information and data across all sectors and institutions of Philippine society.

As the only comprehensive information and communication technology exhibit in the Philippines being endorsed by the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation (PETEF), I am confident that the HR Exhibitors Philippines Inc., through projects like COMMASIA 2002, will continue to inform our people on how to use information and communication technology as an instrument for poverty reduction.

As you go along this project, please bear in mind as well the importance of building human capacities and technologies skills so that we, in partnership with the business community and civil society, can translate knowledge into instruments of empowerment and economic production.

More power!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President

APC end-to-end solutions for data centers and facilities

DATA centers are very large "data warehouses" for critical business records and data storage. They operate as a critical link and transport facility for mission-critical information and are designed to house the equipment that enables business to function efficiently.

Because the "new economy" often demands 24 x 7 availability of all computer and control systems, fail-safe back-up and disaster back-up and disaster recovery systems for data centers and facilities are crucial.

Data center downtime inevitably leads to business disruption. It translates into significant recovery costs, lost revenue, angry customers and a tarnished corporate image, all of which can be a great benefit to a company's competitors!

A major cause of data center downtime is electrical power failure in the form of prolonged outages, or a host of day-to-day power related problems including line dips and surges, transverse and common-mode interference or "noise," and in some areas, brownouts.

All of those power disturbances can seriously damage computer equipment, valuable data and cause system downtime. Providing alternatives or backups for the power supply is one method to insulate a company against external conditions that are beyond its ability to control.

VISIT THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EVENT IN THE COUNTRY

CommAsia 2002

2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology, & E-Commerce Exhibition

Held coinciding with the National Electronics and Telecommunications Week (NETW)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Over 8,000 sq.m. exhibition space
- ✓ Over 200 exhibitors
- ✓ International Group Participation
- ✓ Free Product Presentations & Seminars
- ✓ Industry Conference

May 9-11

Exhibition Hours:
10:30 am- 6pm
World Trade Center

FREE ENTRANCE
TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS
PERSONS BELOW 18 YRS. OLD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL.

SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

ICT Growth and Development in South East Asia

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1:30-2:10pm	A Global View of the ICT Industry by: Peter Wallace
2:15-3pm	The Future of Investment in South East Asia by: Paul Brown Kenyon
3:15-4pm	Growth Areas/Business Opportunities Available in the Philippines
4-4:45pm	Analysis of ICT Developments in the Philippines

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1pm-2pm	New Paradigm in IP Analysis / by: Asterna Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2pm-3pm	An Exceptionally Flexible and Cost-Effective Optical Communications System by: Brand-Rex [illegible]
2pm-3pm	Hanap-Buhay.com - OnLine Recruitment / Job Search by: Intertech Resources
3-3:30pm	Primer to Land XML by: Autodesk / GIS Asianet / GIM Tech
3pm-4pm	Modulya by: [illegible]
3pm-4pm	Plasma Display Panel by: LG [illegible]
3:30-4pm	Mobile Backup by: Computer Associates
4-5pm	Powerpoint Presentation: Northgate Cyberzone by: Northgate Cyberzone
5-6pm	How to Project your Best Image by Micro Data Systems

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)

10:30-11:30am	Bullet-proofing Your Network by: American Power Conversion
11am-12nn	Radiant Asset Monitoring System: Practical GPS for Professional Use by: Asian Navigation & Tracking Systems, Inc.
11:30-12:30pm	Why should I care about E-Learning? by: CyberValue.Com Phils.
1pm-2pm	Dotenable Products by Dotenable.Com
1-1:30pm	Teleprompters - Prompting for Professionals by Adtel, Inc. / Telescript
1:30-2:00pm	GlobeCaster All-in-One Solutions-Studio-in-a-Box by Adtel, Inc / Global Streams
2pm-3pm	Global Leader in Electrical Energy Storage Solutions by: Exide Technologies
2pm-3pm	Real Time Patching (Structure Cabling) by: Molex
3pm-4pm	Barco Projection Systems for Different Work Applications by: Audio Visual Driver
3pm-3:30pm	Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment by: Porta Systems
3pm-4pm	3 COM Wireless & Security by: 3 COM
3:30-4:00pm	e-Business Security Solutions by: Computer Associates
4-4:30pm	Open Packet Telephony by: Adtel, Inc. / Cisco Systems
4pm-5pm	Secure Transactions using Smart Cards by: [illegible]
4pm-5pm	American Tech. Inc.
5pm-6pm	Worldcom Products and Services by: [illegible]

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)

10:30-11:30am	All about Batteries by Outlast Battery
1pm-2pm	Providing You Total Business Control by: [illegible]
2pm-3pm	State of Wireless in the Philippines by Digital Filipino
4pm-5pm	AGM and GEL Technology by [illegible] Industries, Inc.
5pm-6pm	Electro Voice: The Sound System of Choice by: Micro Data Systems

A JOINT PROJECT OF

Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation

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Corporate Centre
121 Valero St. Salcedo Village
Makati City
Tel No (632) 750-8588, 887-1304
Fax (632) [illegible], 887-1306
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Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

GMM-HFH, CIDA SEAL PARTNERSHIP

President Eduardo Samonte of Greater Metro Manila Habitat for Humanity Inc (GMM-HfH) receives a check from Ann Germain, team leader and second secretary for project development of Canadian International Development Agency (Cida)-Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for the Eco-Waste Management Project in the Asamba community located in Sitio Mendez, Baesa, Quezon City. Shown witnessing the event, from left, are Menchu Sarmiento, GMM-HfH trustee, Lourdes Padilla, Canada Fund for Local Initiative project coordinator, Dr. Judea Millora, GMM-HfH trustee and founder and president of Zero Kalat sa Kaunlaran, Yoly Sanchez, program administrator of GMM-HfH, Erlinda Saplandante, president of Asamba Hoa, barangay captain Diosdado Almodovar of Barangay Baesa, Quezon City, Ernesto Jarabe of the DENR, Rep. Chuck Mathay of the 2nd District of Quezon City, and Rev. Phil Brewster, GMM-HfH trustee.

THE BEAUTIES OF MYRA 300-E

23 of the country's most beautiful women recently met executives and employees of Unilab, makers of Myra 300-E. The candidates of this year's Binibining Pilipinas visited the offices of Myra 300-E, a major sponsor of the prestigious beauty pageant. One of the lucky candidates will be receiving the brand's corporate award, Myra 300-E Ms Inner Beauty. During the visit, the brand team got to know the candidates better, helping them determine who best embodies the qualities of Myra 300-E and who is most deserving to be named Ms Inner Beauty. The prestigious award went to candidate 17, Katherine Ann Manalo, who was eventually crowned Bb Pilipinas-World. Hosting the breakfast for the candidates were the brand team of Myra 300-E (seated, from left) Maynl Dizon, product assistant, Alvin So, product director, Eva Datol, product manager, and Ernest Lao, senior account manager from DY&R-Alcantara, Myra 300-E's advertising agency.

Clips

Hope for healing marriages

IF YOUR marriage is hurting, or has grown cold and uncaring, the Retrouvaille Program offers you and your spouse hope to help you heal your marriage. The Retrouvaille ("rediscovery") Program provides and environment of hope to couples who are open to rebuild their relationship while extreme stresses of mistrust or unforgiveness are tearing their marriage apart. The healing environment starts with a weekend experience, followed by six half-day post sessions to be scheduled. The program assures participants of confidentiality in all its phases. The Antipolo diocese is offering the Retrouvaille Weekend from May 10 to 12 at the Saidi Formation Center, Taktak Drive, Antipolo, Rizal. For inquiries, call Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361, Bien and Lex at 933-2783/84, Willie and Aleth at 800-5902 or 801-2371, Mar and Arml at 825-2605, or Ike and Flor at 718-0689.

Cancer experts in video seminar series

INTERNATIONAL cancer experts will be featured in a series of video presentation seminars to discuss therapies, causes and prevention of the disease. The series kicks off at the Philippine Trade and Training Center along Roxas Boulevard, corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City on Friday, May 10. The video seminar series is sponsored by Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of Chinese anti-cancer herbal medicine Super Tian Xian Liquid. The video presentations were taped during the 29th Annual Cancer Convention of the US Cancer Control Society. For registration, visit Green and Gold International Exports at Room 307, Solmac Building, 84 Dapitan Street corner Banawe Streets, Quezon City. For more information, call 415-8714, 781-0069, and 781-9370.

CHS HS '81 homecoming

ALUMNI of the College of the Holy Spirit-High School batch 1981 are invited to come and join the fun at the Family Day on May 11, Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12 noon at the CHS Mendiola New Covered Court. There will be a Mass at 7 a.m. Registration will start at 8 a.m. and the program will begin at 9 a.m. For more details, call Suzette Malig-Ayson at 920-3761, Maripi Salvador-Ting at 915-5508, or Cecile Quitangon-Martinez at 633-3988.

SAS Tagudin reunion

THERE will be a reunion on May 11 and 12 of former high school students and graduates of St. Augustine's School, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur. Dubbed "SAS Kidday ken Kablaaw 2002", the affair will not only provide an opportunity to meet and renew ties with former classmates but also to solicit support for the programs that would be undertaken to help the school continue its mission and achieve its vision. Interested parties can confirm their attendance with Loreta Ulpindo-Corpuz (077-7487197, 0919-8260915), Elma Reyes-Folluscc (074-4443878), Jane Bang-og-Cosalan (074-4423209, 0919-3283004), Alice Valencia-Hizo (776-1869, 0919-46650349), Mae Zabala-Uclaray (372-3188, 0917-6451784), or Anselma Udayan-Pascual (929-2095, 0917-9943778).

Delight Mom on Mother's Day

HEY, kids, we all know that our moms always do all the work around the house. Why not make Mother's Day a special day for Mom by letting her relax and for a change, why don't you prepare a special meal for her? The San Miguel Culinary Center would like to invite you to a cooking demonstration of easy-to-prepare dishes for Mother's Day. Join us at the Entertainment Center of SM City North Edsa on May 10, Friday at 2 p.m. Special guest and Carne Norte endorser Lani Mercado will share with you some tips. Present any two wrappers of Purefoods-Hormel products in exchange for an entrance stub, and to be able to join the raffle and games. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91 loc. 402, 404 or 405.

RP hosts biggest entertainment techno event

THE PHILIPPINES plays host to the biggest and most comprehensive entertainment technology in the country with the 2nd International Pro Audio, Light, Music and Movie Exhibition and Conference, or PALMM Philippines 2002 to be held from May 9 to 11 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. PALMM 2002 features the latest gizmos and equipment used in the entertainment industry covering professional recording, sound reinforcement, broadcasting technology, music, live sound, theatrical lighting, special effects, movie production, AV technology, replication and duplication and other related products and services which have gone through leaps and bounds in the last few years. During the show, exhibitors will hold seminars, and hold product demos. For more information, call IIR Exhibition Phils. Inc. at 750-8588.

Meg and Forward's Circle of 20

STRUT your stuff and show 'em what you got. Join the Meg & Forward Circle of 20 modeling workshop this summer. Meg and FWD Magazines are looking for real people to be part of a wonder workshop that'll get you started on your way to runway fame. All Meg and FWD Circle of 20 members graduate with a real fashion show, with outstanding members becoming regular models for Meg and FWD Magazines. The workshop is open to male or female models wannabes, 13 to 22 years old, in the high school or college levels and residing in Metro Manila. Participants should submit a certification of approval clearance from school authorities stating their eligibility to join. Submit your photo together with the official application form at the 16th floor of Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Deadline for applications is on May 10. Log on to www.ivegotstyle.net or call Maia or Francis at 631-2859 or 633-4785

CommAsia 2002

2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics Information Technology & E-Commerce Exhibition & Conference

Len delos Reyes, Account Manager
Aries Espinosa, Editor

MESSAGES

I extend my sincerest greetings and felicitations to the people behind the 2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition and Conference "COMMASIA 2002.'

Last year, the holding of the first COMMASIA project has been a great success and has indeed contributed to the advancement of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT). For this year, we hope that this gathering would sustain the fruits of last year's event and build upon the initial partnerships that have been established. As a highly dynamic and fast evolving field, I am sure that the second staging of this endeavor would be more exciting and promising for all local and international stakeholders.

With this is mind, I am with you in inviting everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to explore the numerous possibilities of increasing your company's productivity, raising the quality of your services and generally enjoying the benefits that can be derived from the ICT sector. Lastly, I would like to personally welcome all foreign exhibitors, investors and visitors as well as our local stakeholders to our country. May your continued engagement in our country bring mutual benefits for you and our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I welcome the exhibitors, investors and visitors to the country's most prestigious international communication technology exhibition and conference, "COMMASIA 2002,' which will be held on May 9-11, 2002

HR Exhibitions Philippines Inc., recognized as among the country's foremost organizers of grand international exhibitions, will again host this great business event that is expected to showcase the latest cutting-edge technological advances in communications. With the complete support of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, we have confident expectations that this exhibition will indeed be another successful event that will provide immense opportunities for exhibitors to meet potential clients and broaden the entrepreneurial horizon of the delegates and visitors alike. The wide array of innovations and new ideas that will be displayed in this event will certainly help improve the competitiveness of the country.

I, therefore, exhort the distinguished organizers to continue this great endeavor which contributes to nation building. May the new ideas gained from this event inspire the participants to embark on undertakings that will uplift the economic well being of our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest congratulations to the leadership of the HR Exhibitions Philippines Inc., for having organized COMMASIA 2002-2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition and Conference to be held on May 9-11, 2002 at the World Trade Center, Makati City, Manila.

Undoubtedly, COMMASIA 2002 captures our country's transformation into a knowledge-based society, driven largely by the advances in information and communications technology. Since the major challenges to all developing countries right now is its gradual integration into a highly networked global society, a project like COMMASIA 2002 fills in the gap, for it ensures the free flow of, and equitable access to, knowledge, information and data across all sectors and institutions of Philippine society.

As the only comprehensive information and communication technology exhibit in the Philippines being endorsed by the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation (PETEF), I am confident that the HR Exhibitors Philippines Inc., through projects like COMMASIA 2002, will continue to inform our people on how to use information and communication technology as an instrument for poverty reduction.

As you go along this project, please bear in mind as well the importance of building human capacities and technologies skills so that we, in partnership with the business community and civil society, can translate knowledge into instruments of empowerment and economic production.

More power!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President

APC end-to-end solutions for data centers and facilities

DATA centers are very large "data warehouses" for critical business records and data storage. They operate as a critical link and transport facility for mission-critical information and are designed to house the equipment that enables business to function efficiently.

Because the "new economy" often demands 24 x 7 availability of all computer and control systems, fail-safe back-up and disaster back-up and disaster recovery systems for data centers and facilities are crucial.

Data center downtime inevitably leads to business disruption. It translates into significant recovery costs, lost revenue, angry customers and a tarnished corporate image, all of which can be a great benefit to a company's competitors!

A major cause of data center downtime is electrical power failure in the form of prolonged outages, or a host of day-to-day power related problems including line dips and surges, transverse and common-mode interference or "noise," and in some areas, brownouts.

All of those power disturbances can seriously damage computer equipment, valuable data and cause system downtime. Providing alternatives or backups for the power supply is one method to insulate a company against external conditions that are beyond its ability to control.

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2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology, & E-Commerce Exhibition

Held coinciding with the National Electronics and Telecommunications Week (NETW)

HIGHLIGHTS:

✓ Over 8,000 sq.m. exhibition space
✓ Over 200 exhibitors
✓ International Group Participation
✓ Free Product Presentations & Seminars
✓ Industry Conference

May 9-11
Exhibition Hours :
10:30 am- 6pm
World Trade Center

FREE ENTRANCE
TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS
PERSONS BELOW 18 YRS. OLD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL.

SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

ICT Growth and Development in South East Asia

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1:30- 2:15pm A Global View of the ICT Industry by: Peter Wallace
2:15- 3pm The Future of Investment in South East Asia by: Paul Brown Kenyon
3:15- 4pm Growth Areas/Business Opportunities Available in the Philippines
4- 4:45pm Analysis of ICT Developments in the Philippines

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1 pm- 2pm New Paradigm in IP Analysis / by Asteria Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2 pm- 3pm An Exceptionally Flexible and Cost-Effective Optical Communications System by Brand-Rex Stella
2pm - 3pm Hanap-Buhay.com - OnLine Recruitment / Job Search by Infotech Resources
3- 3:30pm Primer to Land XML by Autodesk / GIS Asia / CIM Tech
3pm - 4pm Modulys by Socomec Sicon
3pm - 4pm Plasma Display Panel by LG Collins
3:30- 4pm Mobile Backup by Computer Associates
4- 5pm Powerpoint Presentation: Northgate Cyberzone by Northgate Cyberzone
5- 6pm How to Project your Best Image by Micro Data Systems

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)

10:30 - 11:30am Bullet-proofing Your Network by American Power Conversion
11am- 12nn Radiant Asset Monitoring System: Practical GPS for Professional Use by Asem Navigation & Tracking Systems, Inc
11:30 - 12:30pm Why should I care about E-Learning? by Cybertutor Corp Phils
1pm- 2pm Dataminds Products by DataminAs Corp
1 - 1:30pm Teleprompters - Prompting for Professionals by Adtel, Inc / Telescript
1:30- 2:00pm GlobeCaster All-In-One Solutions- Studio-In-a-Box by Adtel, Inc / Global Streams
2pm-3pm Global Leader in Electrical Energy Storage Solutions by Exide Technologies
2pm- 3pm Real Time Patching (Structure Cabling) by Molex
3pm-4pm Barco Projection Systems for Different Work Applications by Audio Visual Dimes
3pm- 3:30pm Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment by Porta Systems
3pm- 4pm 3 COM Wireless & Security by 3 COM
3:30- 4:00pm e-Business Security Solutions by Computer Associates
4- 4:30pm Open Packet Telephony by Adtel, Inc / Cisco Systems
4pm-5pm Secure Transactions using Smart Cards by Nodatage / Mondex
4pm- 6pm American Tech. Inc.
5pm-6pm Worldcom Products and Services

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)

10:30-11:30am All about Batteries by Outback Battery
1pm- 2pm Providing You Total Business Control by Capital Communications Inc
2 pm- 3pm State of Wireless in the Philippines by Digital Filipino
4pm- 5pm AGM and GEL Technology by Motolite Industrial, Inc.
5 pm- 6pm Electro Voice The Sound System of Choice by Micro Data Systems

A JOINT PROJECT OF

Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation

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DOTC Secretary Alvarez opens CommAsia 2002

Department of Transportation and Communications Sec. Pantaleon D. Alvarez formally opens on May 9, 2002 the country's most prestigious and biggest information and communications technology exhibition at the World Trade Center Metro Manila which will run until May 11, 2002.

Secretary Alvarez will lead the guests coming from both the government and private sectors in the industry in what is anticipated to be a "high-tech" opening ceremony of the 2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Electronics, Information Technology Exhibition and Conference, COMMASIA 2002, jointly organized by the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation (PETEF) and IIR Exhibitions Phils. Inc.

They include NTC Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio, Jr., Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) executive director Virgilio L. Peña, PETEF president David Fernando, US Department of Commerce Dep. Asst. Sec. Chiling Tong, PETEF vice-president and chairperson for events Maureen B. Santiago and IIR Exhibitions managing director for Asia Patrick Lawrence Tan.

COMMASIA 2002 is testimony to the ability of the country's information communication technology sector to keep in step with major developments of the industry around the world which is critical to any country that aims to capture the interest of the local ICT users. Since today's economy depends on large measure on the free and speedy flow of knowledge, information and data among the different sectors of society, it has become imperative to always be updated on the new technology that is being invented as fast as it is being marketed.

The opportunities that technology presents enhances human capabilities and skills that have greatly improved the production and movement of goods from the factories to the consumer. Information and communications technology have made it easier for people to do their work in a speedy manner.

Among the products to be showcased are protocol analysers, cable tests, telecom systems from Acterna Asia Pacific, broadcasting equipment from Active Communications, proxima projector and sound system, home theatre equipment from Audio Visual Driver, telecommunications products from Capwire; Universal Mobile Telecommunications System from Kathrein-Werke KG; IT training solutions from Cyberstate U; web design and developer from Dot Enable; batteries from Exide; audio visual products, computers, projectors and video wall from Imatech Enterprises; mobile phones, IT products, audio-visual equipment and other high-end appliances from LG Collins;

Web-enabled technology for vehicle tracking from Asian Navigation and Tracking Systems, Inc.; total graphic solutions from American Technologies, Inc.; post data and voice services, ATM equipment, internet services and call center from MCI Worldcom; audio-visual equipment from Micro Data; information technology from Northgate Cyberzone; batteries from Outlast; JVC Broadcasting from Provi and web design, software development applications from RSB technologies, and many more.

For those who seek the latest technology, COMMASIA 2002 is a must. For more information call 750-8588.

HR Philippines: organizers with an international track record

HR EXHIBITIONS Philippines Inc. (HR), the professional organizer with a proven international track record, is behind the holding of COMMASIA 2002, the 2nd International Telecommunications, Broadcast, Information Technology and E-Commerce Exhibition Conference which is being held from May 9 to 11, 2002 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM).

COMMASIA is a joint project of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, Inc. (PETEF) and HR. HR is a member of the London-based Institute for International Research Group, a world leader in exhibitions, business conferences, information technology, training and business information publishing. It is an independent, privately owned company with an international network of 192 business units in 26 countries.

The HR Group worldwide currently organizes trade events in the United States, United Kingdom, France, Poland, Gemany, Netherlands, Hong Kong, UAE, Egypt, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. This year, HR is organizing more than 400 telecom trade events around the globe. In the Philippines, HR through its trade exhibitions has been a force that has significantly [illegible] the economy of the country with the tremendous volume of technology that have been transferred from many countries to the local industries. The value of sales of this technology, equipment and other supplies and materials from these exhibitions have been valued at more than $500 million. They are now responsible for producing quality products in the Philippines.

HR's shows for 2002 include COMMASIA 2002, PALMM PHILS, Professional Audio Light, Movie and Music Philippines held simultaneously with COMMASIA 2002; Communications and Automation Cebu 2002, 5th International Telecommunications, Electronics and Office Automation Exhibition, June 27 to 29 at the Cebu International Co0nvention Center, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel; Manufacturing Technology 2002, 5th Industrial Machinery and Technology Exhibition, incorporating Woodmach Cebu 2002, 5th International Wood, Woodworking, Furniture-making Machinery and Accessories Exhibition from June 27 to 29 at the Cebu international Center, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Autoshop Asia 2002, 2nd International; Automotive and Motorcycle Aftermarket parts and Accessories, Garage, Refinishing and Workshop Equipment and Tools from Sept. 12 to 15 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM); Hardware and Tools Asia 2002, 2nd International Hardware Products, Handtools, Industrial Support Equipment and Technology, Do-it-yourself Supplies, Specialty Materials and Accessories Exhibition incorporating Security Asia 2002 from Sept. 12 to 15 at the WTCMM; Metalworking and Tools Philippines 2002, 6th International Machine tools, Metalworking and Allied Industries Automation Philippines 2002 from Sept. 12 to 15 at the WTCMM; Woodmach and Furniture making Machinery and Furniture Accessories Exhibition from Sept. 12 to 15 at the WTCMM.

Graphics Asia 2002, 2nd International Exhibition on Graphic Design Art Equipment, Machinery, Materials and Accessories Exhibition from Sept. 25 to 28 at the WTCMM; packaging Philippines 2002, 7th Internatuional Packaging and Food processing Machinery Equipment, Materials and Technology Exhibition with Special Feature, Food Technology Expo 2002, WTCMM; Phil Print 2002, 5th International Printing, Paper & Graphic Arts Equipment, Pre-Press Solutions, Accessories and Materials Exhibition and Conference, Sept. 25 to 28, WTCMM; Plastics Philippines 2002, 7th International plastics Machinery, Technology, Materials and Services Exhibition, Sept. 25 to 28, WTCMM; and EnviroTech Philippines 2002, 2nd Total Environmental Technology and Product Showcase incorporating Instrumentation and Controls Philippines 2002 NDE Pumps & Valves Philippines 2002 at the WTCMM.

For more information contact HR Exhibitions at tel. no. 750-8588 and fax no. 750-8585.

COMMASIA 2002 PARTICIPANTS LIST

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AVAYA
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BARCO PTE. LTD. (Barco Projection Systems)
BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
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American Power Conversion's UPS solutions, such the Symmetra Power Array and the Silicon, both combine with the complete line of APC software and accessories to provide the four most crucial elements of total data center protection; redundancy, scalability, manageability and serviceability. Scalable UPS systems allow communications and IT professionals to add UPS protection as critical loads increase. APC's Symmetra Power Array, and AC based UPS, has load-sharing modules that allow communications and IT professionals to add UPS protection as critical loads increases. APC'c Symmetra Power Array, and AC based UPS, has load-sharing modules that allow users to easily build and reconfigure the array of the unit. Scalability facilities business expansion, as it allows a power protection strategy to easily adapt to growing IT needs.

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10:30 am-6:00 pm
WORLD TRADE CENTER

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sight sound light, music and more...

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY (AES) presents
SOUND SYSTEM INTELLIGIBILITY

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)
1 pm-5 pm The Ear and Psychoacoustics of Sound by Jiggs Hermano-VP(IAA), Member(AES), Member (ASA)
Concepts of Intelligibility- Inverse Square Law, Speaker Q, Critical Distance, Reverberation, Articulation, Noise Criteria by Dar J. Quintos- Chairman(AES), Chairman(IAA)

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
1 pm-5 pm Acoustics for Intelligibility by Mike N. Pedero- VChairman(AES) Treasurer(IAA)
The Intelligible Sound System by Andrew M. Savilla- Treasurer(AES), President(IAA)

For details on fees and reservations, please contact:
Ms Weng Cordero of IAA, (632)631-3130 or fax at (632) 631-3117
email iaaphil@pacific.com.ph or
Ms. Ana Lonon of AES at tel. no. (632) 421-1790 or fax at 421-1784
email philippines@aes.org

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
1 pm- 2 pm Shure's Latest Wireless System by Stuart Dodin- Audiophile Components, Inc

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30 am Choosing The Right Projector by Steve Santillan- SolidVideo Corporation
1 pm- 2 pm New Performance Gear Microphones from Shure by Stuart Dodin- Audiophile Components, Inc
2:30 - 3:30 pm How to Prepare and Conduct High Impact Presentation by Maurice Librea/ Louie Navoc- Gakken Philippines, Inc.

MAY 11, SATURDAY
1 pm- 2 pm How to Choose the Right Projector by Maurice Librea- Gakken Philippines, Inc.

FREE ENTRANCE
TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS
PERSONS BELOW 18 YRS. OLD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL.

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RAFFLE PROMO

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   - Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   - Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500
   - Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
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OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

Ex-Governor RESTITUTO "Resing" L. LUNA, SR.

Of the Province of Laguna

Has peacefully joined our Creator on May 5, 2002
at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Leonor Ang Luna**
Children **Dra. Vangie Luna** and husband **Harvey McGee**, **Atty. Bo Luna**, wife **Dra. May Almeida Luna**, and their son **Ian**; and **Atty. Troy Luna** and his wife **Maan Martinez Luna**

Brother **Atty. Romeo Luna** and wife **Teotista Cerdeña-Luna**; and Children **Dr. Romeo** and **Mimi Luna**, **Dra. Leah** and **Butch Tan**, **Wawa** and **Raoul Feliciano**

Sister **Judge Rose** and husband **Atty. Teddy Pison**, their son **Atty. Martin** and his wife **Xedric** and daughter **Ruth**

In-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be at the Provincial Capitol, Sta. Cruz, Laguna on 9 May 2002, and will be transferred to the Calamba City Hall on 10 May 2002.

Interment will be on 11 May 2002, after the 9:00 o'clock AM Mass at the Calamba City Hall.

DOMINADOR "DOMING" S. ALLI, SR.

Born on July 10, 1933 at Taytay, Palawan
and passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 07, 2002.

His loving wife **Caring**, children **Boy** and **Liza**, **Beng** and **Ad**, **Nando** and **France**, **Elena** and **Raffy**, **Baby**, **Boyet** and **Gem**, **Imma**, **Thelma**, **Chris** and **Genie**, and **Mello**, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters **Arturo** (†), **Auring**, **Mading**, **Lita**, **Linda**, **Temy** and **Aida**, brothers and sisters-in-law, father **Francisco (Cocoy)** (†) and mother **Maria** (†), relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A-2, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

VW Ruben G. Medina 33°

Tamaraw Lodge No. 65, Member, Mindoro Bodies

joined his Creator last May 4, 2002 at the age of 59.

His wife **Luzviminda**; children and grandchildren, **Michael John**, **Lily** and **Miggy**; **Roselyn**, **Carlito**, **Aika** and **Aiko**, **Ma. Patricia** and **Kalvan** and **Michelle Joan**; his mother **Lydia** and brothers **Edgardo** and **Danilo**; his sisters and brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 9, 002 at the family mausoleum, Old Municipal Catholic Cemetery, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

MARIA ORBETA FELICIANO

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 5, 2002
at the age of 83.

Her loving children **Myrna**, **Felipe Cuison** and **Angeli**; daughter-in-law **Tess**; son-in-law **Emilio Mallare** and **Col. Pedrito Cadungog**; and sisters **Julieta O. Pangilinan** and **Cristina O. Corpuz** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Jusmag Chapel, Fort Bonifacio.

Interment will be at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, today, May 9, 2002.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MOTORING
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

CEOs propose 3% flat rate for AUVs, pickups, vans

By Tessa R. Salazar

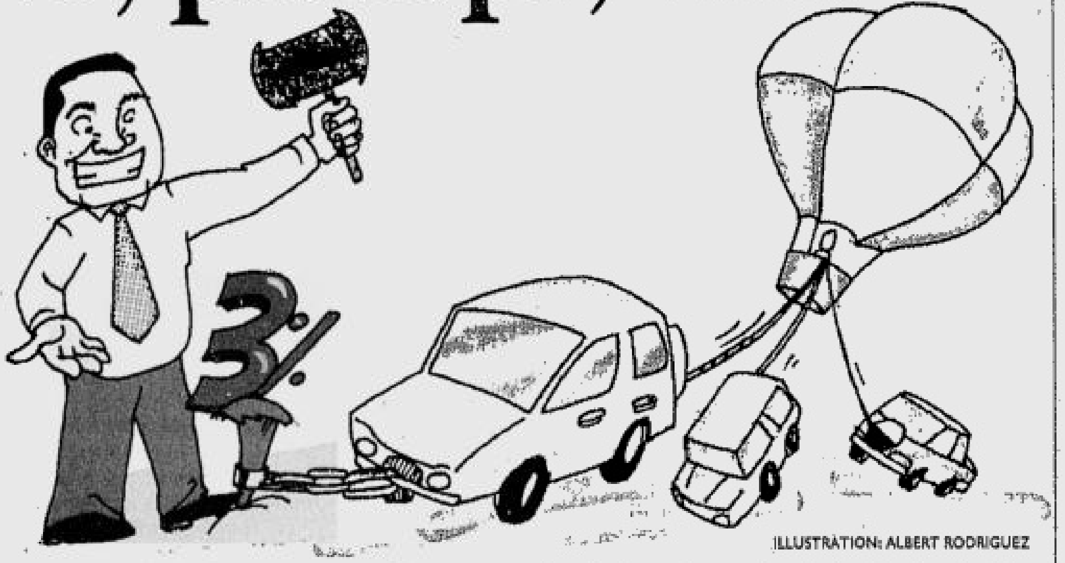


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ASIAN utility vehicles, pickups and vans—vehicles not currently covered by tax—should be taxed at a flat 3-percent rate. Sport Utility Vehicles should be taxed the same as passenger cars. This way, the much-disputed loopholes in the government's proposed tax scheme would be plugged.

This was the proposal of the auto industry's chief executive officers in a May 6 meeting with Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison and Board of Investments executive director Elmer Hernandez.

Both the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association were represented in the meeting.

Strong opposition

Stressing strong opposition to the value-based tax scheme, the CEOs emphasized that in order for any change in the excise tax structure to be fully effective, the detrimental effects of rampant secondhand vehicle imports must be stopped.

There are now two positions on how to tax the auto industry. One is value-based, proposed by the government, and the other is based on engine displacement proposed by the industry.

The government is reportedly asking the industry for a simulation to show the effect of its proposal on revenues. More exchange of ideas and discussions are expected to take place between the government and the industry.

Effects on prices

The INQUIRER last week came out with a story on the effects of the government's value-based excise taxation on the prices of commercial vehicles. AUVs were expected to cost P24,000 to P36,000 more, pickups were projected to cost P67,000 more and vans were set to cost P97,000 more.

Auto manufacturers say that these types of vehicles are a big hit among the Filipinos because these are mainly used by small to medium enterprises, small-scale entrepreneurs and used as taxis and shuttles.

The government's value-based taxation proposal is feared to decrease the volume of sales and the total tax revenue that it had hoped to generate.

Just a 'smokescreen'

Meanwhile, an economist who spoke on condition of anonymity said the new tax scheme proposed by the government is just a "smokescreen" to hide the smuggling and auction of used vehicles. It is also set to delay any tax reform.

The DOF's tax system, according to the source, does not offer alternatives and did not consider a demand pull (or increase in vehicle sales) effect if tax rates and tax brackets were lowered and diffused respectively.

The economist cited that every time the Bureau of Internal Revenue raised taxes, the car assemblers ditched assembly and reverted to CBUs. He also cited the case of the SUV 4x4 market. Heavy taxation, the source stressed, results in less sales, less profits, less revenue, job losses and company closures.

"Since the market shrank and could not sustain local assembly, CBUs are the more viable alternatives. It is fine to tax but by now the BIR should have learned its lessons with repeated ham-fisted taxation and the economic harm it causes."

The source cited BMW, a European luxury carmaker that put up an assembly plant in the country. It would have sold more luxury cars if the taxation was a lot more reasonable. The source also said Volvo used to be assembled here, but increasing taxes and exchange rates drove the standard retail prices of its vehicles so high, it reverted to CBU.

Eibach brings F1 racing experience to RP

By Charles E. Buban

EIBACH spring and suspension system

HAS it ever crossed your mind how riding in a racing car feels like? Now you can have a chance as ATI Diesel Injection Service Inc. recently announced its partnership with German company Eibach Federn, the motorsports racing world's leading supplier of high-performance spring and premium suspension systems.

As Eibach's exclusive distributor here in the Philippines, ATI hopes to bring in the technology to Filipino motorists who require better performance and handling in their cars.

Says Ralph Heinrich Eibach, who recently visited the country to introduce his company's various products: "The good news is you don't have to own a Formula 1 car to enjoy Eibach springs and suspensions. Our company has successfully transferred its many years of being associated with motorsports racing, into its various lines of products that can be outfitted in most vehicles running in this country."

Eibach takes pride to being relied on by most vehicles in major racing events like Formula 1, World Rally Championship, Indy, Cart, Nascar, DTM and even Motocross and Enduro.

Says Butch Inducil of ATI: "We are proud to be associated with a company known throughout the motorsports racing world. Through ATI, we can bring that same expertise and technology here in the country. Filipino motorists will now have a chance to enjoy that aggressive and sportive yet comfortable and safe edge to their vehicles. Drivers will immediately experience a more direct handling and predict better their vehicles' reactions."

Impressive performance

Eibach springs obtain their impressive performance to nearly 50 years of experience in spring technology perfected by Eibach's own set of engineers, craftsmen and enthusiasts.

Their production process starts with Eibach getting their client's requirement and specification. "Whether they're Ferrari or just plain car enthusiasts, it doesn't matter to us. Our own engineers will come up with the best possible design and tests them extensively. We then manufacture the springs using a spring wire that meets our engineers' specifications using computerized coiling equipment," describes Eibach.

The entire process—from development to logistics—is subject to a rigid quality system that is certified by the highest standard. Eibach's products are designed and manufactured to the highest technical standards, including the DIN EN ISO 9001, German TÜV, Japanese MOT and various standards required in some countries.

Eibach products must meet the following critical requirements of their clients:

- Maintain minimum preload to assure positive spring location under all driving conditions.
- Maintain calculated remaining travel for impressive performance, safety and ride quality.
- Dynamic durability assurance to provide years of lasting performance.
- Corrosion protection meeting the requirements of the OEM industry and Eibach's critical standards.
- Meeting the legal standards that most countries require for Eibach's Pro-Kit, Pro-Damper, Anti-Roll-Kit and Pro-Control Bar products.

Recognized worldwide

"Eibach's commitment to quality, consistency and performance is second to none," says Eibach. "We take our years of racing experience and combine them with controlling every aspect of producing the finest performance springs."

The company's highly recognized production technology is employed in every stage of production starting with the high-strength alloy material used, the CNC winding process employed to increase Eibach spring's lifetime and the high-quality corrosion protection process employed. To ensure each product is monitored properly, Eibach uses labeling where part number and date of manufacture are imprinted on each product.

Octane rating and your car

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

MOTORISTS loading gasoline notice that lately, service stations in Metro Manila have been posting the octane rating on the façade of the fuel pump. This posting focuses attention on octane rating and bolsters the popular belief that the higher the octane rating, the better for your motor vehicle.

But this isn't necessarily so. According to the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC)), in most cases or unless your engine is knocking, using higher octane gasoline than your owner's manual recommends offers absolutely no benefit. It won't make your car perform better, go faster, get better mileage or run cleaner. The only one that benefits is the oil company making more money off you, since higher octane gasoline costs more.

What exactly is octane rating? Daniel Emmanuel, who has worked in the petroleum industry, informs us through the Internet that "Octane, by definition, is the resistance to burn or detonation. The higher the rating, the slower the burn when ignited during the compression burn cycle of the piston. The higher octane allows for better control of burning for high compression engines. So we want to match the correct octane rating of the gasoline to the engine design to ensure complete burning of the gasoline by the engine for maximum fuel economy and clean emissions."

In the FTC's words, octane rating measures a gasoline's ability to resist engine knock, rattling or pinging due to premature ignition of the compressed fuel-air mixture in one or more cylinders. An engine needs a minimum level of octane to avoid ping. Excessive pinging can severely damage the engine and car manufacturers cannot be held responsible for such damage.

In older engines using carburetors that were not adjusted regularly to keep the air/fuel mix as accurate as possible, too much fuel was often mixed with the air. It resulted in gasoline not burning completely and soaking into carbon deposits. Because of the intense heat in the engine cylinder, a premature ignition of the gasoline would occur, creating an engine knock. To resist the premature burn and thereby reduce the knocking problem, motorists would switch to a higher octane/slower burning gasoline.

Carburetors were phased out long ago in favor of fuel injectors with computers to accurately control the air/fuel mix under all types of temperature and environmental conditions. In most cars today, the ignition timing is automatically adjusted according to the grade of fuel used. However, Emmanuel warns, the accuracy of the fuel injectors and computers depends on the use of the recommended gasoline for that engine.

As for advertisements touting premium gasoline as having more cleaning additives that prevent or remove engine deposits, the fact is that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all octane grades of all brands of gasoline to contain basically the same amount of detergent additives and solvents to keep the fuel system clean. The only difference is the kind of additive package used by refiners in a particular brand. (But in this country, there is no EPA to check on the gasoline sold here.)

Bottom line: check your owner's manual to find out the right octane level for your car. And listen to your car's engine. If it doesn't knock when you use the recommended octane level, you're using the right grade of gasoline. If it knocks or pings, switch to a higher octane grade to eliminate the knock. If the knocking continues after one or more fill-ups, you may need a tune-up or some other repair.

While the FTC claims that most cars in the United States are designed to burn regular unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 87, the same isn't true here. If you check your car owner's manual for the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer, chances are you'll find it's premium gasoline with Octane Research Number 95 or higher. That means Shell Super Unleaded, Shell Premium and Caltex Vortex Silver, each of which has a Research Octane Rating of 93, are not recommended. You'll have to load up with Total Pro Tec (P17.78 per liter), Total Premier Unleaded (P17.23), Petron XCS Plus (P17.81), Petron Unleaded (P17.26), Shell Velocity (P18.13) or Caltex Vortex Gold (P17.81), all of which claim a Research Octane Rating of 95. On the average, Vortex Gold costs P0.55 more per liter than Vortex Silver and Velocity costs P0.87 more per liter than Shell Super Unleaded. Total and Petron have no octane rating lower than 95 while Petron Blaze claims to have the highest octane rating: 97. But Blaze, at P18.26 per liter, also has the highest price.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: You are young only once, but you can stay immature indefinitely.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

NLE rehabilitation; Rep. Mathay writes

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

A GUY from Camiling, Tarlac (a certain Mr. Valdez), wrote an interesting letter a while back. He said what many others have said 10 years ago: the North Luzon Expressway has become obsolete.

I believe him. His hometown is just a stone's throw away from my birthplace, Mangatarem, Pangasinan. The two of us use the North Luzon Expressway each time we go back home to escape the rat race from the asphalt jungle that is Manila. And, certainly, we do that a lot.

There's no better refuge than your roots. The waft of country air has a balm no other pill can beat.

* * *

I had a lengthy chat a while back with Ping de Jesus, the man in charge with the rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway. The meeting was held with help from my buddy, Angel Sambo. Angel was a long-time journalist who worked as INQUIRER deskman for years.

Ping, who was with the Cory Cabinet, said they are busy finalizing plans to implement a radical approach toward the rehabilitation of the NLT. But first, he said, they need hectares and hectares of land to expand the main artery going up North.

"The courts are busy hearing the cases," he said. "But we are optimistic we can start work full-blast soon."

If it's any consolation, Ping said once work has begun, it would be "on a 24-hour basis, even on holidays."

* * *

Here's a letter from Rep. Ismael G. Mathay III.

"Dear Mr. Mendoza:

"I read with much pleasure and delight your column 'Accident capital of Metro Manila' (April 18).

"Commonwealth Avenue, which is within the legislative district I represent, has indeed become the so called 'accident capital' of sorts.

"As the new chair of Task Force Batasan, I intend to convene the said task force very soon to address the concerns you have pointed out in your column.

"Rest assured that we shall do our utmost to ensure the safety of both commuters and pedestrians along Commonwealth Avenue.

"Mabuhay po kayo!"

Thank you, Congressman.

It may interest you to know that only last Sunday (May 5), a four-vehicle collision occurred again at Commonwealth Avenue, right at an intersection near the Ever-Gotesco mall. It involved an ambulance. Just minutes after the afternoon accident, a monstrous traffic jam ensued. Because of that, I moved my kite-flying thrills from UP-Diliman to Tivoli near the Royal Maru Driving Range.

I wish your Task Force Batasan would take wings now. Classes will resume barely a month from now.

* * *

Here's another letter. It came from Rolando E. Gonzalez, chief of the Marikina District Office (Land Transportation Office).

"Dear Mr. Mendoza:

"This is my reply to Mr. Trinity Atienza's complaint leveled against me which appeared in your column of April 25:

"1. Mr. Atienza's regular registration transaction with our office for almost 15 years involves plain renewal of the yearly registration of his vehicle.

"2. His motor vehicle's original registration transaction was undertaken at LTO San Fernando, Pampanga District Office.

"3. He is applying for a change in motor/engine of the above-stated motor vehicle.

"4. Any changes in the ownership/motor/chassis number of any motor vehicle can be undertaken at the original registering agency. In his case, at LTO San Fernando. It can also be done at any district office provided that a confirmation (CIR 123) of the Certificate of Registration issued by the original registering agency is received by the requesting district office.

"5. After Mr. Atienza had completed all the required documents for his change-motor/engine, he was informed of the above-stated procedure. He chose to undertake the change-engine at the original registering district office.

"6. Before Mr. Atienza went to the San Fernando District Office for the change-engine, this office prepared the necessary certification as to the authenticity of his latest renewal registration so that he will not be required to return to this office for said verification.

"I hope this explains everything and my side will also appear in your column."

Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez. Just a reminder, though: You need not send copies of your letter to my colleagues here. All the time, I will print your side because basic journalism is presenting both sides of the issue.

Best regards to your friend, Ed Deveza.

* * *

QUOTE ME. When on a long trip and you will drive, eat light. Then have a sandwich or some biscuits along the way.

3 natural gas-powered vehicles to run in Isabela

By Tessa R. Salazar

Natural Gas

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

RECONFIGURING three diesel engines into natural gas-powered engines will be a provincial state college's ultimate mission—if plans push through.

The diesel engines of three vehicles will be converted into natural gas-friendly ones in Echague, Isabela, where refueling stations for natural gas have already been set up. Existing onshore resources for natural gas could be found in Echague.

A memorandum of agreement is due for signing between the Isabela State College (where the vehicles will be converted), the local government of Echague, and the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development. The PCIERD is a research and development arm of the Department of Science and Technology.

Conversion project

The DOST granted the state college P1.3 million for the conversion project.

The capability to convert diesel engines into natural gas engines was first realized when the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Corp., the PNOC-Energy Development Corp. and the PCIERD tied up with the New Zealand government and came up with the first vehicle converted to run by natural gas.

The PNOC-EC supplied the natural gas while the PNOC-EDC was involved in the conversion of the vehicle, an Isuzu Hi-Lander. This technology will now be transferred to the Isabela State College.

Two more vans of the Department of Energy and the PNOC now use natural gas-powered engines.

Diesel engines are designed to combust fuel in liquid form. The conversion process involves changing the fuel injector into a gas regulator, which would introduce natural gas to the engine. This process was explained by PCIERD supervising science research specialist Nonilo A. Peña to the INQUIRER.

The area of combustion of the engine would then be expanded. The piston rings will be reduced to accommodate the resulting combustion of gas.

Proven abroad

"The technology of natural gas has been proven abroad. There are existing conversion kits around the world. These are commercially available in Europe, United States, Australia and in New Zealand," he said.

Even the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) in Japan, Europe and the United States have manufactured engines dedicated to natural gas.

Economics, however, would make natural gas-powered engines hardly accessible to the public. Peña said this type of engine could cost 75 to 100 percent more than regular diesel engines at the moment.

He also said it would be difficult to introduce the technology in Metro Manila. The city has been ranked the 18th largest metropolis in the world and home to 1.3 million vehicles. This accounts for 40 percent of total registered vehicles in the country.

The manpower capability needed to complete the project will be set up in Echague, Isabela. The Isabela State College will also expand its human resource development programs in the area.

Meanwhile, the PNOC-EC plans to buy a minibus using an OEM natural gas-powered engine.

Coco-methyl ester plant

A coco methyl ester plant in Tablas Island in Romblon will soon be constructed, said Peña. CME is also identified as an alternative fuel. It is also a potential fuel for the National Power Corp. Plant. A public hearing is now being held for the CME plant. The local government of Romblon, said Peña, is set to give a substantial amount to support the project.

The copra resource lies in Tablas Island, and the cost of diesel fuel in the Romblon area is high, ranging from P15 to P17 per liter, or as much as P4 more compared to Metro Manila prices. Its diesel supply is still shipped from Batangas.

Said Peña: "We identified Romblon as a potential area. The cost of cocomethyl ester in Metro Manila, on the other hand, is not competitive."

New TV show for car lovers on RPN 9

CAR lovers of all ages now have a show to look forward to every Saturday at 4 p.m. on RPN 9. Titled "Auto Extreme," the hour-long weekly TV magazine about cars and motoring promises to be an entertaining ride for its viewers.

Designed to appeal to the young and the youthful-minded, the show's fast-paced style and VJ-like hosts takes its audience through all the ins and outs of the automotive world. Motor sports is just one part of it. "Auto Extreme" covers the gamut from the simple basics of vehicular maintenance all the way to sneak peeks at what die-hard collectors and enthusiasts are up to. For the star-struck, there's also a "Celeb Machines" segment, wherein viewers get to see the rides and motoring passions of the rich and the famous.

The show also hopes to uncover some little-known joints and motoring secrets from the experts. "Auto Extreme" will take its regular viewers on trips around the metropolis to discover new shops and find out more about their specialties. A regular segment called "Break In" also provides viewers with a TV catalogue of the automotive choices out there, including a complete rundown of each vehicle's features and its price.

Auto Extreme is a joint production of Sicomms and Crystal Ship Productions.

NISSAN FRONTIER

Still the top pick of pickup buyers

THE NISSAN Frontier, 2000-2001 sales leader in the double cab compact pickup category, appears poised to claim the No. 1 position for the third consecutive year. Indeed, the latest incarnation of the legendary truck, dubbed the Frontier Pleasure Series, remains at the top of the sales charts in 2002, with a year-to-date tally of 450 units sold, or a full 30 percent of total compact pickup sales.

For the month of March alone, the Frontier claims 43 percent of all 4x2 double cab compact sales, besting closest rival Isuzu by more than 16 percentage points. Combined 4x2 and 4x4 sales of the Pleasure Series Frontier reached 33 percent, making it the third consecutive month of leadership in this category this year.

Overwhelming preference

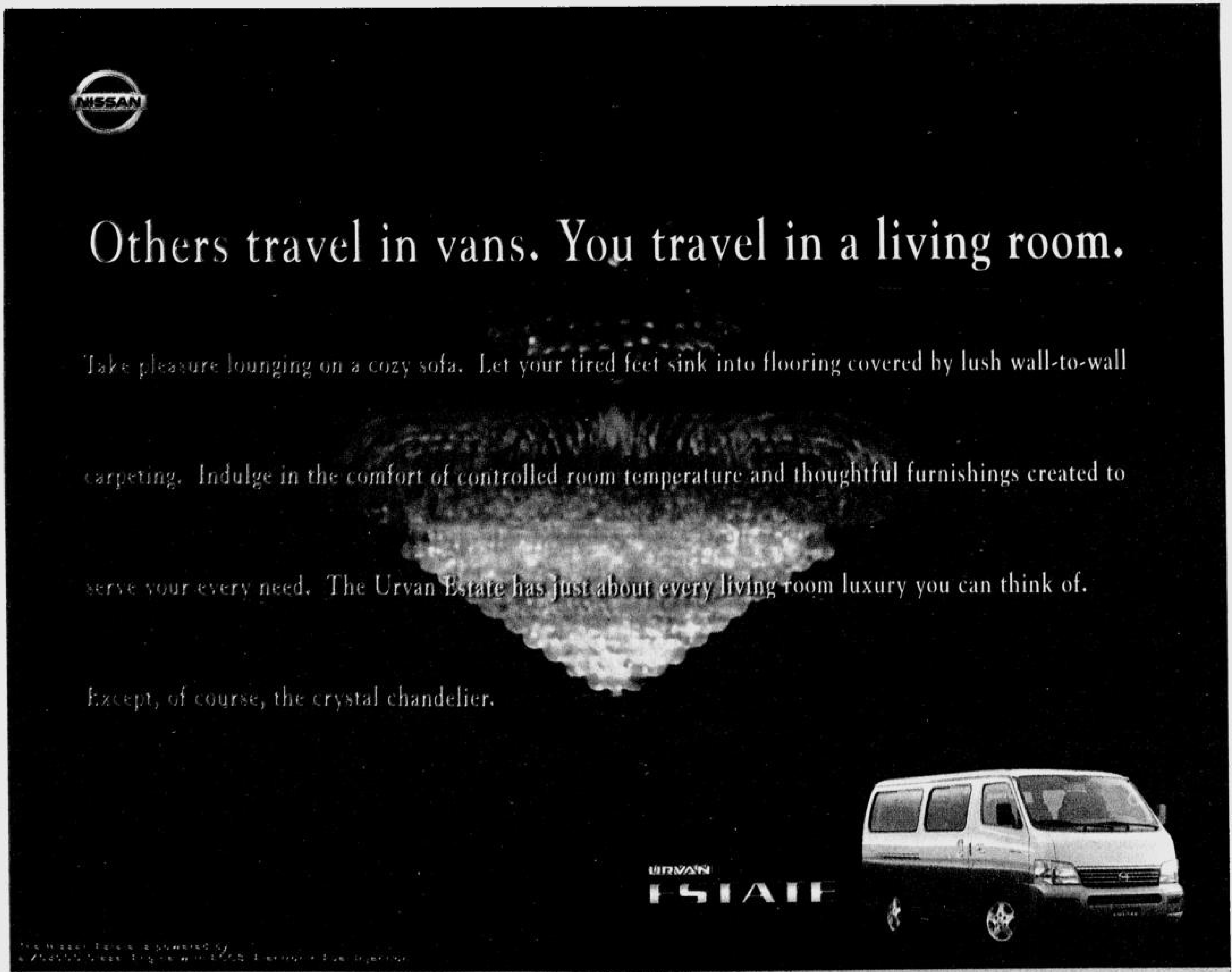
Why the market's overwhelming preference? One look at the spec sheet and it all becomes clear. The Frontier Pleasure Series comes with automatic transmission—a carlike feature which, for years, could not be found on any other pickup. Other sedan-inspired comforts include leather-clad interiors, white meter gauges, four-spoke steering and woodgrain paneling.

The Frontier also boasts of class-leading road performance. It is powered by the largest diesel engines in its class, (2.7 or 3.2 liters on both 4x2 and 4x4 models), providing much-needed high torque even at low rpm.

Without parallel

Safety features are without parallel. The Nissan Frontier is the first compact pickup to offer a driver side SRS airbag. It also has side impact beams, a reinforced ladder type chassis and a child safety lock. Overall safety engineering conforms to Nissan's revolutionary Zone Body Concept, with the passenger cabin protected in a rigid safety zone while allowing crumple zones to disperse energy in the event of a collision. And if that isn't enough to spur this market dominance, consider the Frontier Pleasure Series Limited Edition, Nissan's latest update of its vaunted pickup truck line. Replete with feature upgrades such as foglamps, overfenders, window visors and a distinctive bumper overrider, the Limited Edition Series also boasts of style enhancements including special monotone body colors, Limited Edition badging on all models, and new chrome mags on the 4x2 variants.

The Nissan Frontier Pleasure Series and Limited Edition Series are exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corp.; the sole Philippine assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles.



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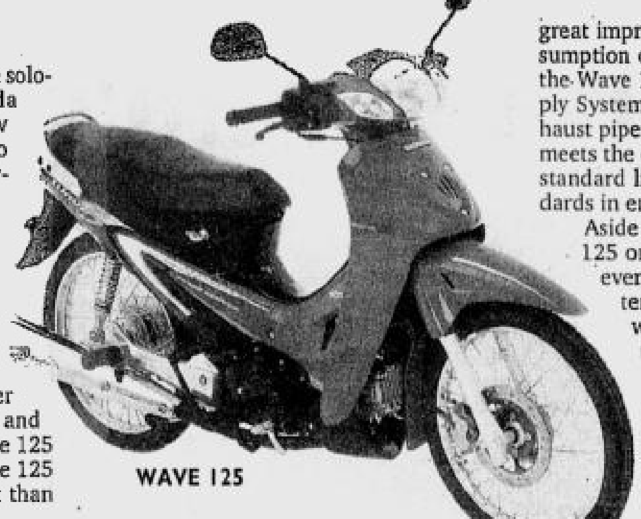
Honda introduces latest cub motorbike

By Charles E. Buban



WAVE 125

RIDING on the steady growth in the solo-ride motorcycle category, Honda Philippines introduced a new member in its 4-stroke engine family to further strengthen its position in the market.

The new Wave 125 is the latest in Honda's cub motorbikes designed for both city and long-distance riding. At 125 cc engine displacement, the new Wave 125 generates more power (even at lower engine speed) than its older sibling, the Wave 110.

By combining technologies like Roller Rocker Arm, Offset Crank Mechanism and Twin Ignition Control System, the Wave 125 will consume less fuel. In fact, the Wave 125 is rated 30 percent more fuel-efficient than the Wave 110.

"The new Wave 125 is designed for comfortable riding, high performance, and safety that will surely appeal to both genders," says Hiroshi Sekiguchi, president of Honda Philippines during the motocycle's launch at Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City.

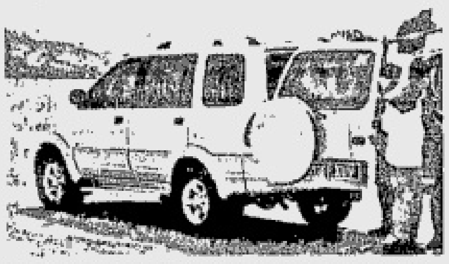
The new Wave 125's 4-stroke engine registers a 63.4 km/L gasoline consumption, a great improvement from the 48.7 km/L consumption of the Wave 110. Apart from that, the Wave 125 features a Secondary Air Supply System that introduces filtered air in exhaust pipe to provide a cleaner emission that meets the exacting demands of international standard like the Euro 1, a new world standards in emission control.

Aside from its fuel efficiency, the Wave 125 only needs to change engine oil for every 8,000 km—that's half the maintenance cost on engine oil. Coupled with a silent chain that lasts two to three times longer than the conventional chain and a maintenance-free battery, the new Wave 125 will surely reduce cost.

Other notable features of the new Wave 125 include:

- Twin Ignition Control System, carburetor sensor which sets ignition timing to be more responsive to the requirement of engine speed.
- Roller Rocker Arm, a first in motorcycles in the Philippines, is similar to that used in automobiles. It helps reduce frictional force between the roller bearing and camshaft, making it perform better than the conventional slipper type.
- Offset Crank Mechanism makes the connecting rod move vertically after ignition, thus, reducing frictional force between piston and cylinder
- New cushion seat design features a one-piece rear grip and 2-level pillion. This permits optimum comfort for both rider and passenger.
- A powerful multireflector diamond headlight and built-in taillights design enhance visibility during night driving.
- Digital speedometer for precise readings plus oil level and kilometer data
- Electric and kick-start features
- U-box is the first in family-type motorcycles that provides security for personal items.
- Bigger rear shocks for better suspension action also allow heavier loads.

> The new Wave 125 is designed for comfortable riding, high performance, and safety that will surely appeal to both genders



THE SPANKING new XUV outstands the rocky dusty surface of Botolan, Zambales.

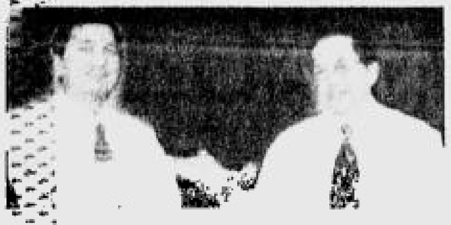
New TV ad highlights tough image of XUV

IF the Crosswind XUV's new TV ad reminds you of a surreal place somewhere out of this world, the actual location used for the filming of this fast-paced ad has tough conditions pretty close to that image.

Shot amid the lahar territory of Botolan, Zambales, the spanking new, sonic yellow XUV was driven across the rocky, dusty lahar surface, over highs and lows, and made to jump over a 3-foot mound and onto a dusty landing—undamaged!

"Impressive," enthused director Manuel Abaya of RS Video and Film Productions, the outfit tasked to create the unique TV commercial. He went on to add that the jump scene was done twice, and he was quite concerned that the vehicle would sustain some damage, but the XUV proved true to its tough and masculine image. In fact, the crew used the same vehicle in their drive back home to Manila.

The Crosswind XUV is powered by Isuzu's legendary 2.5L Direct Injection Diesel Engine and is available in both manual and automatic transmissions.



GALLERY GOES CRM
Nissan Gallery Ortigas, named best in customer satisfaction for two consecutive years by Nissan Motors, implemented recently Ifca's (Information For Competitive Advantage) customer relations management. Knowledge + CRM is a tool to further improve its services to its customers. Gallery president J.A. Banson shakes hands with Ifca president Victor Esguerra.

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BUSINESS

Napocor to junk ₱1.4-B Salcon deal

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has expressed its intention to junk its P1.4-billion "Eight Islands" power project with newly listed Salcon Power Corp., citing constraints set by the joint congressional power commission.

Salcon planned to use part of the proceeds of its initial public offering to build a 50-megawatt bunker-fired diesel power plant, a contract it bagged two years ago.

In a disclosure, Salcon informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that it was "now considering other projects."

The Eight Islands project was meant to supply electricity to areas not connected to the national transmission system.

Napocor has informed Salcon that the implementing rules and regulations of the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" have barred it from incurring new debts by entering into bilateral contracts with independent power producers, including Salcon.

With such a constraint, Napocor said it would not be able to pursue the Eight Islands project.

The project was supposed to cover certain towns in Palawan, Masbate, Marinduque, Catanduanes, Sulu, Cebu, Romblon and Tawi-Tawi.

Salcon said in its disclosure that it wanted to discuss the matter with Napocor to determine how the power requirements of the areas covered by the Eight Islands project could be served.

"In the meantime, the net proceeds from the IPO are being invested in short-term fixed-income securities with certain banks in Metro Manila," it said.

Salcon completed negotiations in February last year.

In June last year, Salcon incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary, Salcon Island Power Corp., to implement the project over a 15-year period.

Napocor earlier committed to pay SIPC an energy fee consisting of foreign and local capital cost recovery rate, operations and maintenance cost rate, and fuel cost recovery rate.

Salcon successfully debuted on the stock exchange on April 2 after raising P565 million through an IPO of primary and secondary shares.

The company sold 313.9 million shares at P1.80 each split into primary and secondary shares out of about 1.57 billion in total shares.

Salcon is majority owned by Salcon Philippines Inc., a 60-percent subsidiary of Singapore's Salcon Ltd.

Globe prepaid subscribers get int'l roaming services

By Abigail L. Ho

PREPAID subscribers of mobile phone firm Globe Telecom Inc. may now use their units abroad.

The country's second largest mobile phone company announced yesterday that it had begun offering roaming services to prepaid card users as of April 28.

Globe senior manager James Ileto disclosed in a news briefing that Globe received 50 to 100 applications in just two days since the new service was offered.

Some 5,000 to 10,000 applications should come in within the next six months, Ileto said.

"Next year, we're expecting as high as 15,000 per month. But in terms of usage, it won't be as high as our postpaid," he told reporters.

Prepaid subscribers can have the service activated at any of Globe's business centers, he said.

Ileto said Globe was not expecting huge revenues from the new service, but it should attract new subscribers.

Roaming services have always been a high revenue earner for Globe since most of its users are businessmen who often use their mobile phones, Ileto said.

Chinatrust reports 207% income hike

By Elena R. Torrijos

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. said yesterday that it chalked up a first-quarter net income of P195.9 million, surpassing last year's figure by 207 percent.

The strong income performance was accounted for by robust trading gains and higher net interest margins, the bank said in a statement.

Chinatrust also said its loan portfolio grew 7 percent to P8.94 billion as of end-March amid moves to expand into the consumer loan business.

"During the quarter, the bank began to build its consumer banking business by rolling out a unique home loan product, which received overwhelming response from the market," Chinatrust president Joey Bermudez said.

The bank's non-performing loans remained tame at 8.3 percent of total loans. This was much lower than the industry average of 18.4 percent as of February.

Despite the healthy loan portfolio, Chinatrust's NPL cover—the ratio of allowance for bad debts to total NPL—stood at a high of 85 percent.

Total resources, meanwhile, decreased by 2.3 percent from year-end 2001 as a result of a reduction in the securities portfolio.

"For the rest of the year, the bank hopes to introduce a salary loan product, a multi-functional deposit product and a slew of cash management offerings," Bermudez said.

"We are also hoping to expand our coverage of the local middle market, while maintaining our dominance in the Taiwanese market in the country," he added.

In the last three months, Chinatrust aggressively recruited highly experienced bankers to beef up its professional team amid its expansion in product offerings.

Chinatrust expects its net income to reach P370 million by the end of the year, 51 percent higher than its 2001 full-year income.

Chinatrust Philippines is a subsidiary of Chinatrust Commercial Bank, the most profitable commercial bank in Taiwan.

Lepanto sees higher income from gold site

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. has expressed confidence that the re-opening of the Victoria 2 gold project in Benguet late this year will lift its bottom line by year's end.

In an interview last week, Lepanto president Artemio Disini told the INQUIRER that Victoria 2 should boost his company's gold output to 200,000 ounces this year.

Studies show that Victoria 2 can yield some 5.3 grams of gold per ton of ore.

Disini said Lepanto would start mining for gold at Victoria 2 in the last quarter of the year.

"The current reserve base in the Victoria 1 and 2 ore bodies are large enough to sustain our mining operation for the medium term or through the next decade," he disclosed. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

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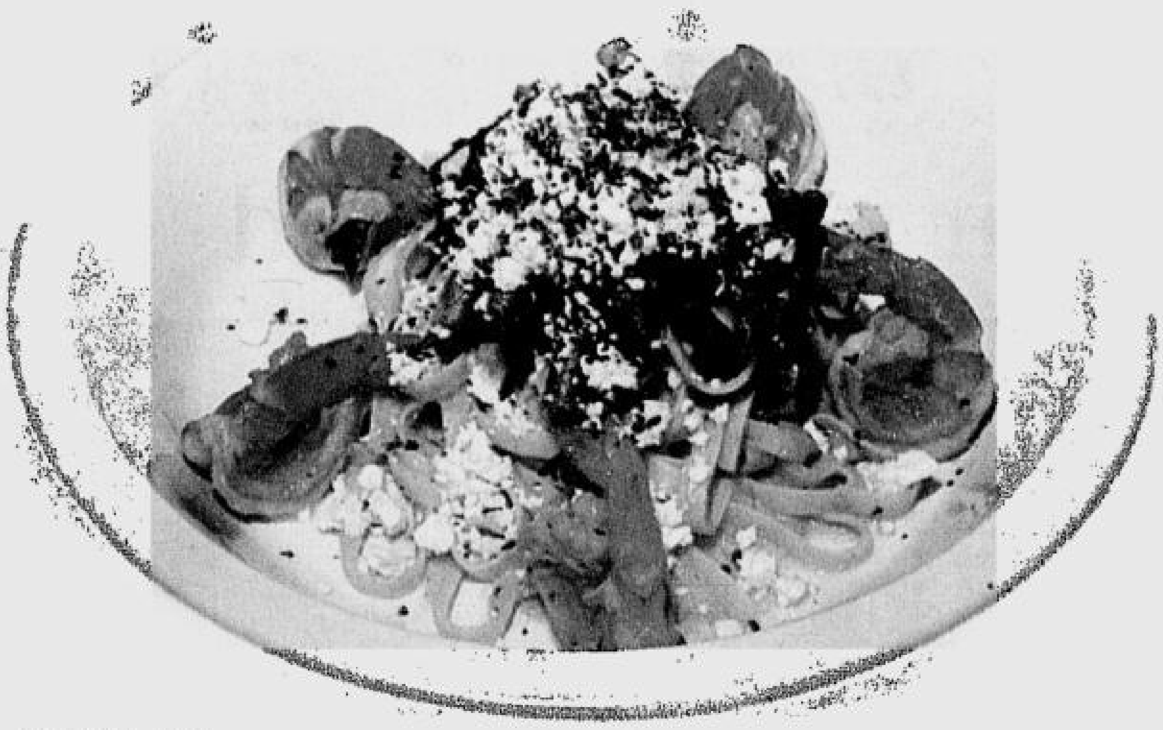

SHRIMP Fra Diablo

The reopened Italianni's at Greenbelt 2 serves Italian-American recipes that are served today in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia

ROMANO Chicken Caesar Salad

Generously Italian

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

MANY Americans love Italian food. For them, a good Italian restaurant should look, feel and smell as if it has been transported from Italy. It should have warm, friendly service and colorful, sumptuous food.

Italianni's Restaurant, which has reopened its doors at Greenbelt Mall 2 in Makati, serves Italian dishes as adopted by the Americans, from pizza to pasta, from soups, salads and seafood to beef and pork desserts. Italianni's' "servings are hearty as usual and the ambiance is the same as that of the first restaurant that we launched six years ago," says Jean Paul Manuud, general manager of Italianni's.

Like its original restaurant at Parkway Building near Ayala Museum, the smaller Italianni's at Greenbelt 2, which is located at the rear of Greenbelt Mall 1, is defined by a "turn of the century" Italian-American décor similar to those used by Italian immigrants in New York City during the 1900s. Its walls are adorned with black-and-white photographs of family gatherings of the era; antique-looking chandeliers and wall sconces light its interiors.

Italianni's menu is a collection of Italian-American recipes that are served today in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.

The 250-seat restaurant in Makati continues to attract a loyal following after six years in business. Manuud credits consistency of food and daily dedication of the staff for the restaurant's success.

Staying true

"Many people want the same dish every time; that's why they come back. They know that we'll never compromise the integrity of the food," he says.

Such approach to staying true to the food of Italy's heritage may seem extreme. But it shows just how far Italianni's will go to pursue Italian cuisine.

For its fine dining place in Greenbelt and bakery-cafés at Alabang Town Center and Glorietta 4, Italianni's has hired John Metz, an Italian-American chef, as consultant.

GENEROUSLY/ p.C3

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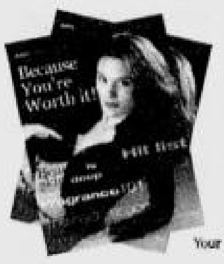

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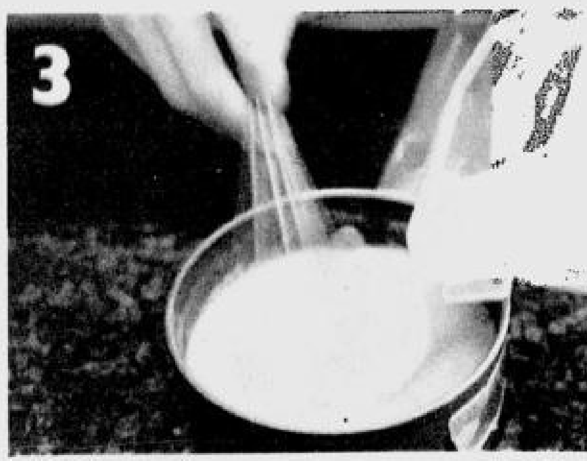
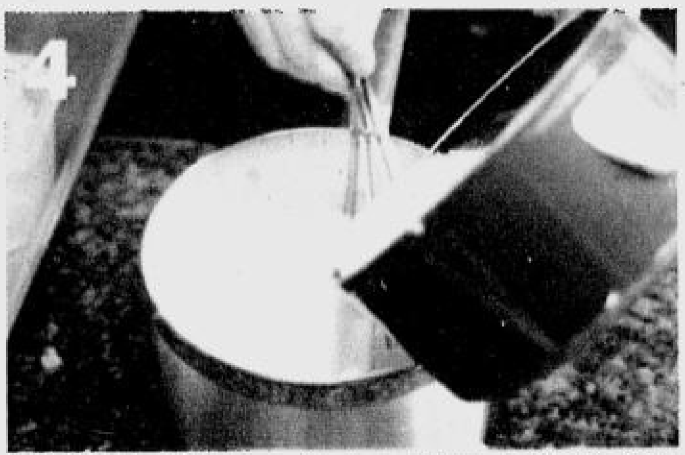
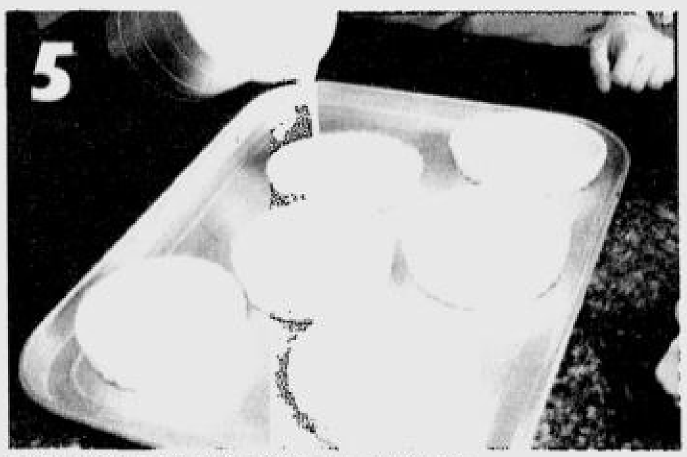


WHISK in egg yolks.



GRADUALLY add in the vanilla-cream mixture. Refrigerate for a few hours.



POUR into eight gratin dishes in a sheet pan.

Crème brûlée: Not your usual custard

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

THIS is not your usual dessert, but it will definitely close any meal with panache. The subtly sweet flavor and smooth texture of crème brûlée will surely captivate you.

Crème brûlée (pronounced krem-broo-ley) is a custard that has been sprinkled with sugar and caramelized using a small torch or a broiler. Crème brûlée is a French term for what the English refers to as "burnt cream." This delicate, silken and sinfully rich dessert is served in most fine-dining restaurants and is quite costly. In truth, this dessert is simple to do and economical to make at home.

STEP-BY-STEP

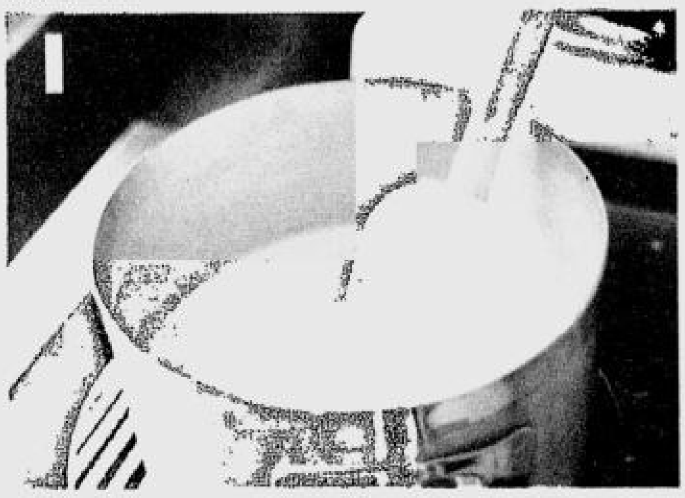
Chef Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not (tel. 723-2776) says the classic custard that literally melts in your mouth gets its delicate flavor from the simple mixture of cream, eggs, sugar and vanilla. The custard is then finished off with a sugar glaze. The caramelized top is the distinguishing feature of crème brûlée. The glaze gives the dessert a pretty, professional look.

To make the glaze, sprinkle the chilled cream with sugar in an even layer, and torch it or place it under a grill preheated to the maximum temperature. The sugar will caramelize to a sheet of brown smoothness.

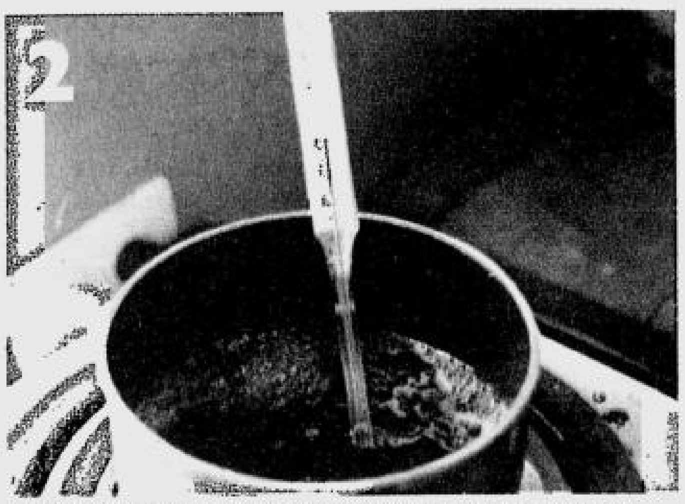
Ingredients:

1 tsp vanilla extract
3 c cream + 1 c cream
¾ c brown sugar
¼ c water
¼ tsp white vinegar
1 tbsp rum
pinch of salt
6 egg yolks

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

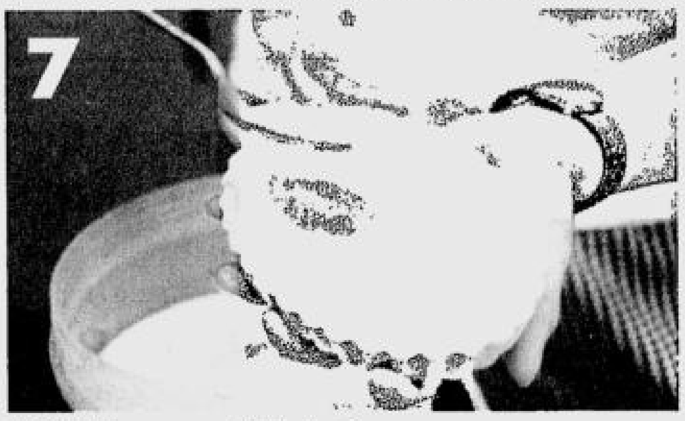


PREHEAT oven to 325°F. Heat 3 c cream and vanilla together and simmer for a few seconds. Turn off heat and set aside.

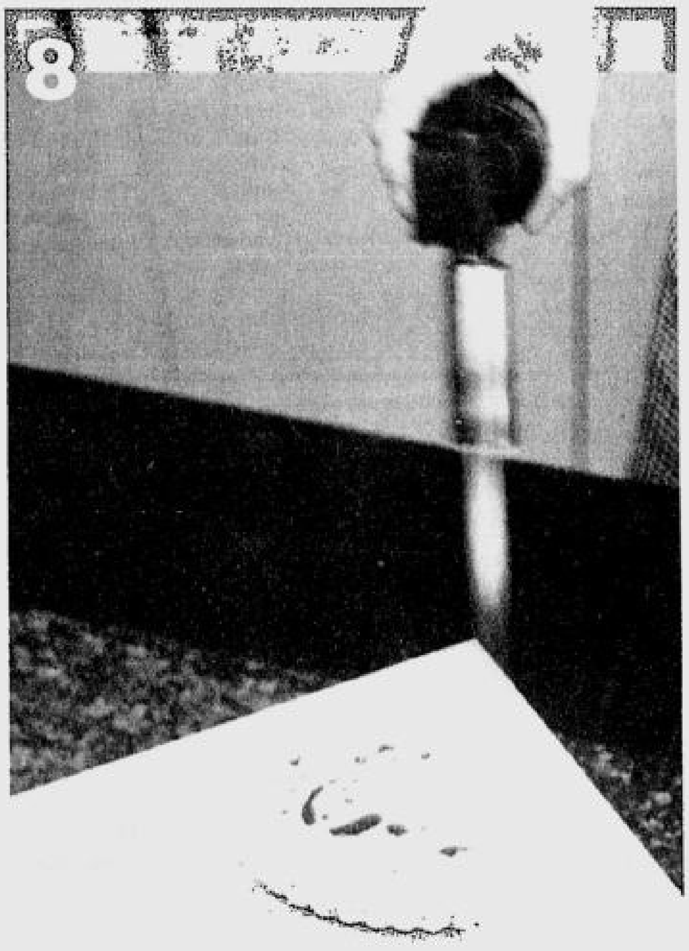


IN ANOTHER pan, heat sugar, water and vinegar to 240°F of candy thermometer. Remove from heat, then add in 1 c cream, rum and salt.

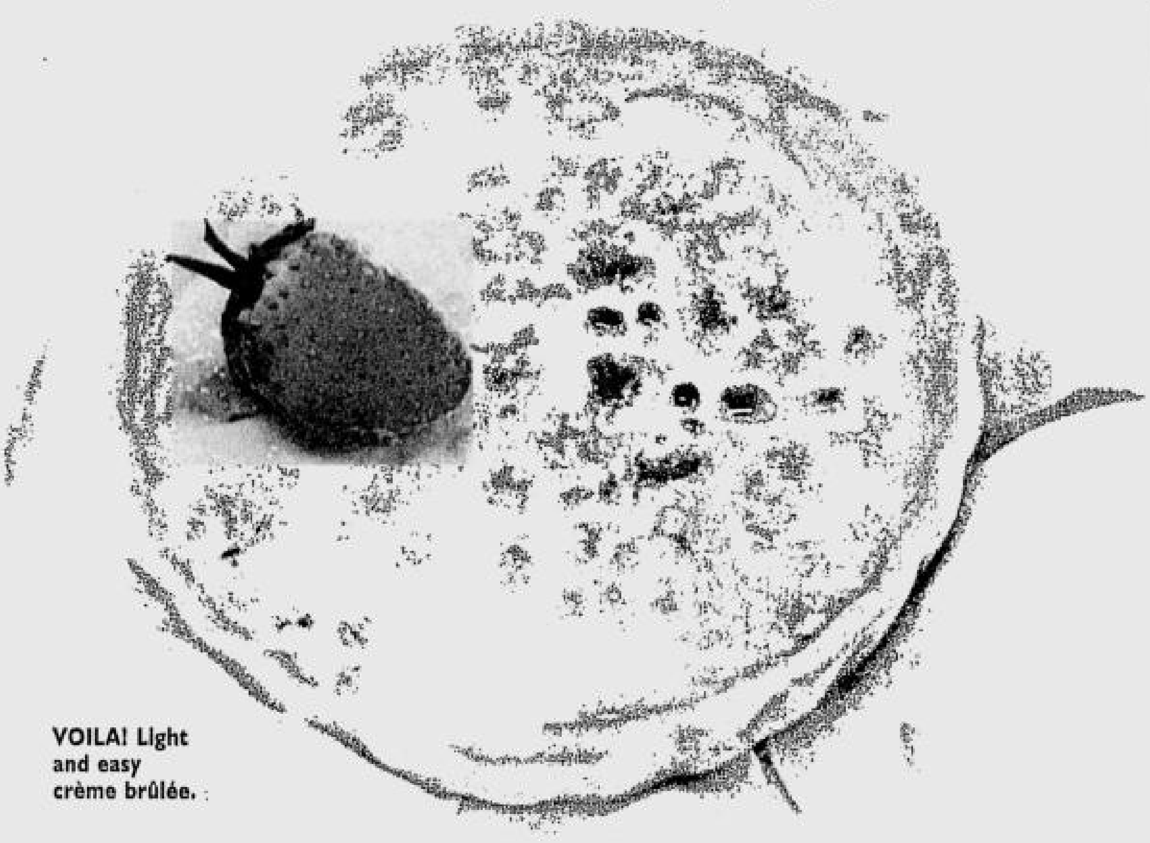
BEFORE BAKING, pour water into the trays to avoid curdling and overcooking. Bake the crèmes until lightly set, approximately 25-30 minutes. Let cool to room temperature and chill.



SPRINKLE sugar over finished crème.



TORCH sugar until set and caramelized.



VOILA! Light and easy crème brûlée.

This soft and silky dessert is sinful and worthy of being torched

---

TASTEMAKERS

Wit and whisky at Wasabi

GOOD will emanated from the popular Zen hangout as Johnnie Walker brand advocate Alan Atkins shared a cartload of the world's best-tasting premium whisky.

Four types of whisky blends make up Johnnie Walker Black Label: the sweet-tasting and light-textured single grain whiskey made from the Cameron Brig distillery not far from Edinburg; the single malt whiskey made Cardhu in the Speyside highlands; the sweet and dry Talisker from the storm-lashed Isle of Skye; and the darkly colored single malt Lagavulin whiskey from Islay in Southern Scotland.

In each destination in the journey of taste, Atkins allowed his audience at Wasabi to smell the whiskey, to taste it and finally to determine the type.

MARKETING director Chuck Janolino (right) with Mike O'Connor and actress Melissa Mendez

THE BEST way to unleash Johnnie Walker Black Label's full flavor is to add a few drops of water.

TEQUILA Joe's El Pueblo in Mardi Gras party spirit

Going Wild at TJ's

TEQUILA Joe's broke off from the usual party night trends with a Mardi Gras for all its patrons and diners. The night witnessed the parade of revelers mimicking the wild life with their exotic costumes and masks.

The costume ball was also participated in by jugglers, face painters, fortunetellers and mimes joined in. True to Tequila Joe's party spirit, the first round of drinks was on the house.

Zing Raspberry, Tequila Slamma and Q-Vodka sponsored the event. TJ branches are located at El Pueblo in Ortigas, Alabang Town Center and at Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center. TJ's Cebu is now open.

ITALIANNI'S at Greenbelt 2 is defined by a turn of the century Italian-American décor.

Generously Italian

From page C1

"We have two chefs with good techniques. One (Metz) has traveled to Italy, talked to the people, eaten in the restaurants while the other one (Eya Marcelo) has a sensitivity for the food," says Manuud.

"If you want to maintain the integrity of the food, you do not add things that do not belong," says Manuud, who believes that authentic means capturing the intangible.

At Italianni's, authenticity has three parts. First, it begins with true Italian ingredients, such as quality extra-virgin olive oil, Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, prosciutto di Parma and "pasta made in a certain way." Then, techniques are mastered, from polenta to risotto. And lastly, food is presented and eaten as it is at the Italian table.

Generous portions

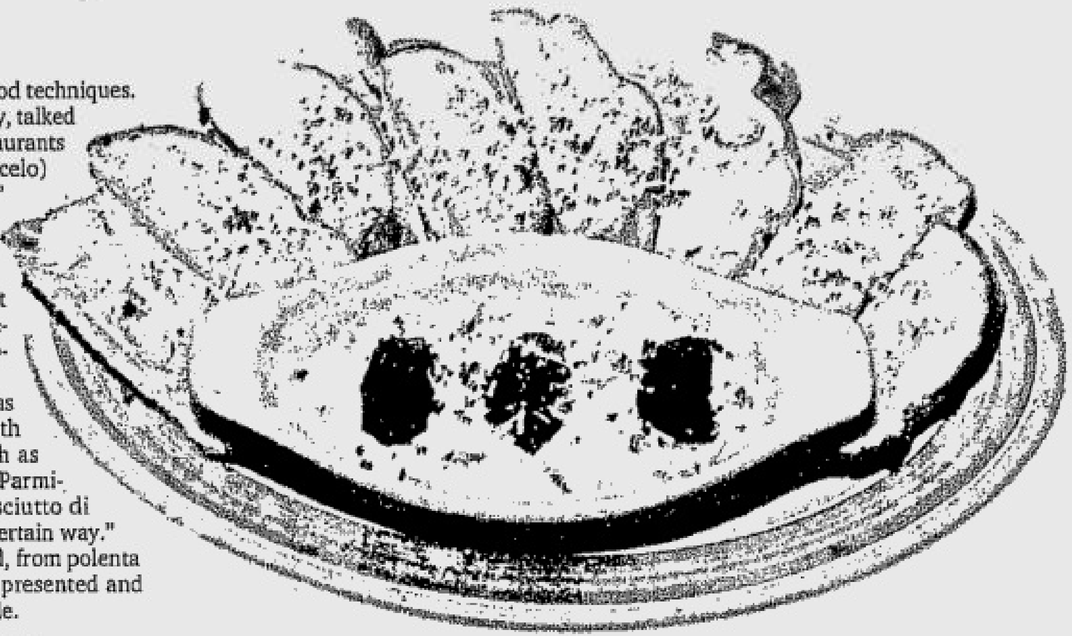
Those who have missed generous servings of house specialties like the Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio, Penne Arrabiato, Angel Hair Pomodoro, Grilled Chicken Fettuccine, Roasted Chicken Italianni's and Grilled Salmon Oreganato, will again enjoy the same selections served *a'more di merrier* style where guests can share food family-style.

Complementing these choices is a selection of specialty drinks, large cocktails, fresh fruit drinks, Italian and American wines. Sodas and iced tea come in free-refill servings.

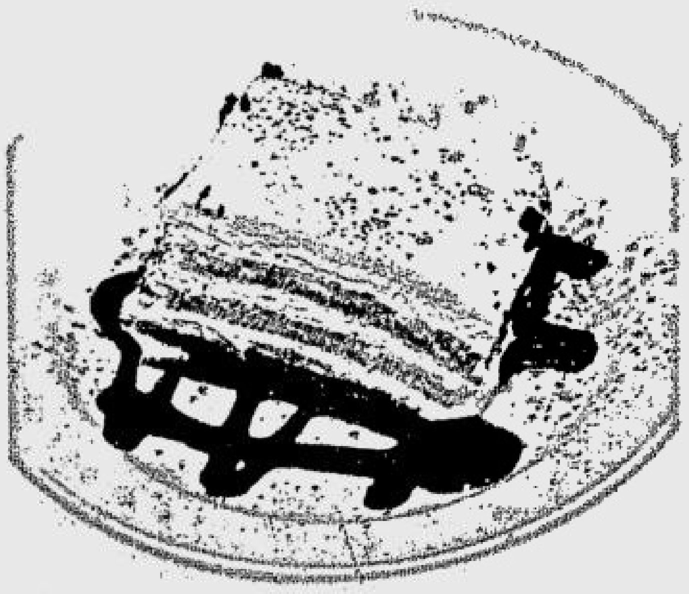
There are also fresh-baked bread and pastries for dine-in and take-out.

Although Manuud plans to change the menu seasonally and rotate daily specials, he says he can't make too many changes because his regular customers will protest. Recognizing regulars and knowing what they like has been key in the history of Italianni's.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



SPINACH and Artichoke Formaggio



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CHEF/RESTAURATEUR/FOOD stylist and owner of Montego Jamaican Bar and Resto, Nicky Camcam

3 easy recipes from chef Nicky Camcam

CHEF and restaurateur Nicky Camcam of Montego Bar and Restaurant, which is located in Eastwood, Libis, has whipped up three mouth-watering dishes that can easily be done in any type of kitchen. The ingredients are readily available and the procedures are simple and easy to do.

Montego is a Jamaican/Caribbean restaurant that specializes in cuisine coming from the islands. Since olive oil is one of the key ingredients in bringing out the flavor of Caribbean dishes, Nicky has teamed up with Oriental Merchants Inc., distributor of Ybarra Olive Oil, for the following recipes.

Cream of Pumpkin and Leeks Soup

2 c pumpkin squash, diced cut
½ c onion leeks, diced cut
6 c chicken stock, ready made
2 tbsp olive oil (Ybarra's Pure)
1 tsp all-purpose cream (for topping only)
A pinch of Cayenne Pepper Powder
1 tbsp spring onions (for garnish), finely chopped
A pinch of nutmeg
Salt and black pepper to taste

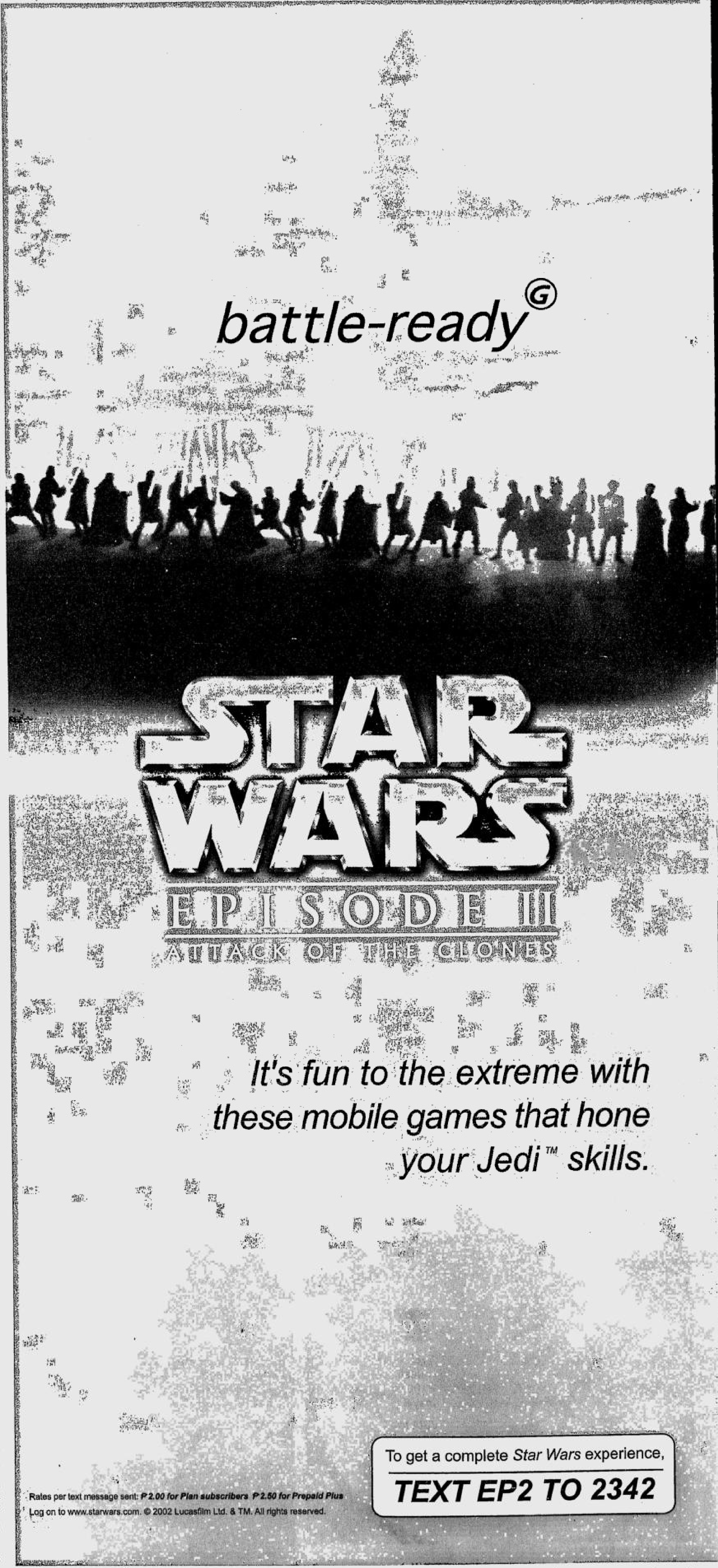
1. Sauté leeks in medium heat with pure olive oil (Ybarra's). Add diced pumpkin and sauté for 5 minutes in low heat.
2. Add chicken stock and bring to a rapid boil. Bring back heat to simmer and continue for 45 minutes without cover.
3. When pumpkin is soft, remove soup from heat and blend until smooth with a hand blender. If not available, slowly laddle in a food processor until all of the soup is smooth.
4. Return soup to simmer and adjust seasoning. Add a pinch of nutmeg.
5. In a soup bowl, portion the soup, add a dollop of cream and sprinkle with spring onions. Serve with crusty bread.

Grilled Breast of Chicken and Spinach Salad with Cashew Nut Vinaigrette

4 pcs medium chicken breast
Lemon juice (from 1 whole lemon)
A pinch of Cayenne Pepper
2 tbsp Pure Olive Oil (Ybarra's)
½ tsp all spice powder
½ tsp cinnamon powder
½ tsp dried thyme
4 c fresh spinach
20 pcs pimiento-stuffed olives, sliced in half
1 small carrot, shredded
16 leaves Lolo Rosso Lettuce
½ c cashew nuts, crushed
¾ c Pure Olive oil (Ybarra's)
¼ c Red Wine Vinegar
1 tsp prepared mustard (Dijon)
1 tbsp pure honey
1 tbsp spring onion, finely chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

1. In a small bowl, put together lemon juice, Cayenne pepper, olive oil, all spice powder, cinnamon powder. Whisk ingredients well and pour on top of chicken breast. Marinate for at least 30 minutes.
2. In another bowl, mix the mustard, honey, crushed cashews, olive oil, wine vinegar, spring onions until well incorporated. Put aside.
3. Clean spinach and lettuce leaves well in cool running water. Wash carrot, peal and shread to 1 inch size. Cut olives in half keeping pimiento stuffing intact. Dry all spinach and lettuce well and put in chiller.
4. Grill chicken breast for 3 minutes each side while basting with marinade, transfer in an oven pan and keep in the oven while preparing the salad. About 5 minutes.
5. In a salad bowl, put in all the spinach and slowly toss with the cashew nut dressing.

3 EASY/ p.C5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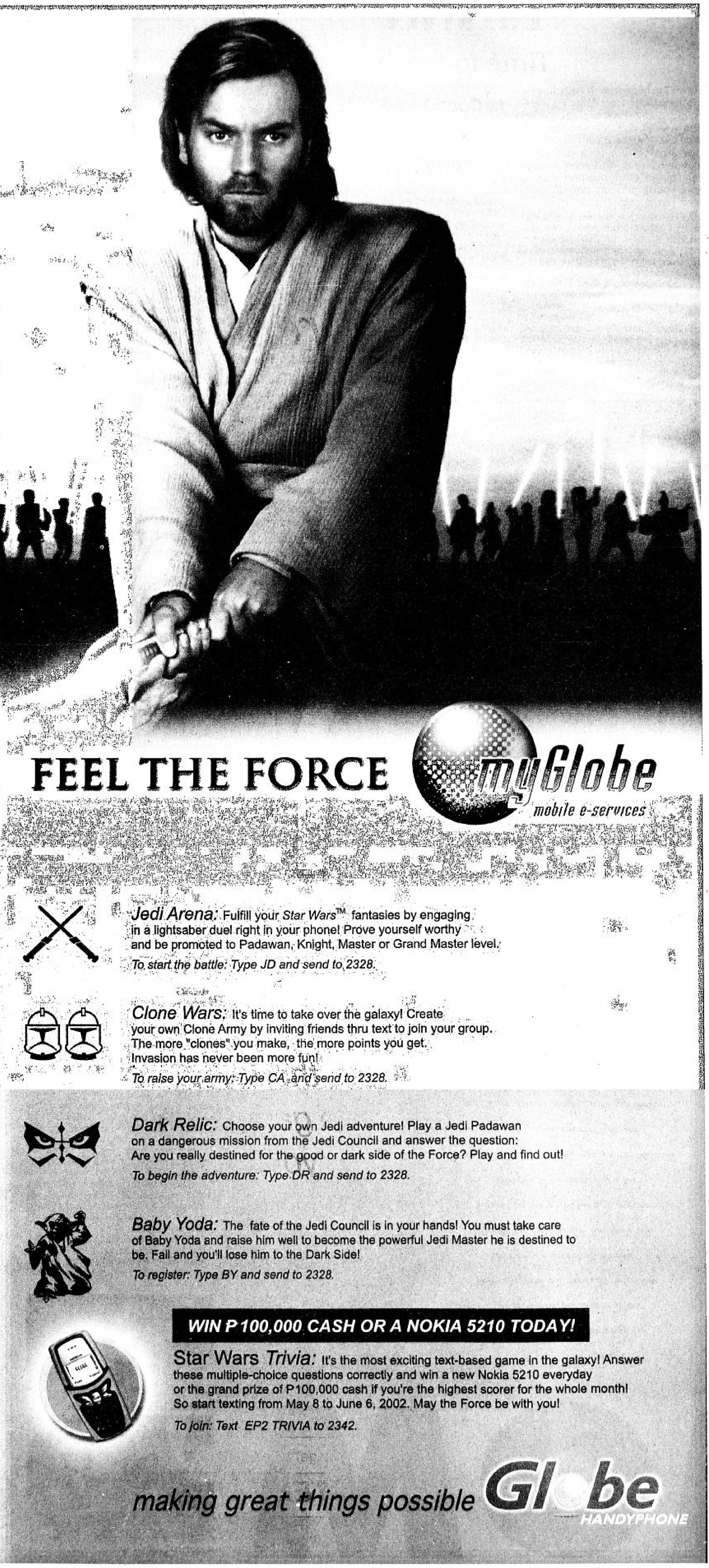
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Jollibee joins 'Star Wars' bandwagon

JOLLIBEE gets ready for the "Attack of the Clones" as it releases starting today its "Star Wars" merchandise. The promo is in time for the May 16 worldwide opening of George Lucas' "Attack of the Clones—Episode II" in the hit prequel to "Star Wars," the biggest movie series of all time.

Jollibee releases today its exclusive yet affordable "Star Wars" collectibles: a two-piece Morse Code-capable WalkieTalkie set designed after dependable droids R2-D2 and C-3PO, fun and functional "Star Wars" action figures which come with every Jolly Kiddie Meal, and special meals that come with a specially designed "Star Wars" softdrink cup featuring "Episode II" characters.

Jollibee's association with the "Star Wars" saga extends to its sponsorship of "Episode II's" exclusive advanced screening on May 11 for its business partners, charitable institutions and foundations and media. Jollibee's friends from the entertainment industry who share a similar passion for the sci-fi classic series will also turn out in full "force."

"The 'Star Wars' movies provide an ideal fantasy for kids and even adults who are hungry for the biggest blockbuster of the summer. I'm sure they will be happy with the visual effects and the sheer magnitude of 'Episode II,'" said Rowena Alano, Jollibee marketing manager for consumer incentives.

STAR WARS
EPISODE II

3 easy recipes from chef Nicky Camcam

From page C4

Place the lettuce around each plate and place the spinach on the center. Remove chicken breast from oven. Place right on top of the spinach and add more dressing to your liking.

6. Garnish the olives and carrots on top of the salad. Serve immediately.

Shrimp Calypso with Linguini in Tomato and Olive Sauce

24 pcs shrimps (head on, peeled and deveined)
1-2 medium green and red bell peppers (¾ in sq cut)
12 pcs onion leeks (1 in cut)
12 pcs fresh button mushrooms
¼ c Pure Olive Oil (Ybarra's)
¼ tsp Cayenne Pepper powder
4 cloves garlic clove, chopped
Lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
½ tsp dried oregano
Ground black pepper and salt to taste
350 g Divella Linguini
4 c crushed tomatoes (canned)
24 whole Ybarra's Pimiento Stuffed Olives
12 sticks wooden skewers
1 onion, chopped

1. Bring 3 liters of water to boil and add 3 tbsp of salt and 3 tbsp of olive oil. Meanwhile, alternately arrange the leeks, button mushrooms, bell pepper and 2 pcs of shrimps per skewer. Marinate with olive oil, Cayenne, lemon juice, oregano and salt and pepper.

2. Sauté onions in olive oil for 5 minutes. Add crushed garlic and cook further without browning. Add the crushed tomatoes and dried oregano and simmer for 30 minutes. (This can be done ahead of time).

3. In boiling water, put all the linguini pasta and allow to cook for 7-8 minutes until al dente.

4. In a sauce pan, pour 2 tbsp of pure olive oil and pan fry skewered shrimps for 3 minutes on each side then keep them in a warm oven (225°F). When all shrimps are in the oven, check the pasta and quickly warm the tomato sauce.

5. Slice pimiento-stuffed olives in half for garnishing. Combine pasta and tomato sauce and portion equally in the center of the dinner plate. Place three skewers of shrimp per plate and add a little more sauce on the pasta.

6. Just before serving, garnish pasta with sliced olives and serve immediately.

Time to teach

Three kids and a foodie turn a dining spree into a workshop

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

MARI Peña, 11

"I WANT to learn how to write like Lola Doreen," said Mari Peña, 11, son of my niece and goddaughter Reena. "And also eat in restaurants like her," he added. Delighted with the idea of a writing workshop for a very young candidate for my job, I accepted, and found myself one lunchtime teaching three young persons how to write about restaurants.

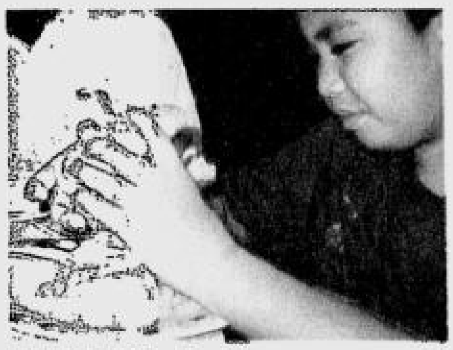
Our classroom was the family restaurant Country Waffles (12 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan; tel. 722-4422; fax 722-4411). I chose it because its menu featured food familiar and unfamiliar to my class: Mari, 11, Carlo, 10, and Maite, 5. We plunged right into what I call the pre-writing stage: finding something to write about, considering options, narrowing the topic to manageable proportions.

"What do you want to eat? Examine the menu." But the three, I found, were no greenhorns. Maite had already been to the Makati branch several times with her parents, and she chose the Country Kids Special (pancakes and syrup), even as I was explaining that the restaurant offered breakfast all day, as well as lunch and dinner. Seeing that I had a pile of French fries in front of me, Carlo dove in: "French fries! My favorite food."

Told that they had to examine, and then choose for themselves from the menu (finding a topic), they did. Quiet Mari decided on Country Fried Chicken when he was assured that fries came with it—but no ketchup, he specified firmly. Exuberant Carlo chose the Chili Burger—because I love chili, he said.

Evaluation

CARLO Peña, 10



EVALUATING a burger

As we ordered drinks and chatted, we evaluated (interrogated the writing topic). Why were the iced tea drinks in what Carlo called "jars" with handles? Because, they agreed, that was a new kind of mug; it was different and quite nice. The fact that it was limitless (free refills), Carlo considered a plus: "A good restaurant has good food, good customer service (his words) and some things given for free." The fact that his orange juice came after his fried chicken, Mari said, was not right: drinks should come first.

All the orders came fairly fast, except for Carlo's, who wavered in his judgment about the restaurant's "good customer service." But when it came, his eyes grew big as his plate: a giant sesame-sprinkled bun, with colorful chili spilling out the side. "Oh, they spilled it," he exclaimed, but he pushed some of it into the bun and manfully lifted the whole burger, and bit—then bit again and again, chili and sauce touching even his cheeks, his pleasure palpable and infectious. He couldn't believe the humongous pile of fries, which he dipped in tomato ketchup. Even he faltered, however, for although he ate the whole bun and burger, with some chili spooned on, he could not handle the bulk of the fries. He concluded: "The servings are too big."

Is that good or not good? I asked, leading him to analysis and evaluation, I hoped. "Good for those with big appetites," he said. "My mom would not be able to finish this, but I can."

Mari, quiet with his fried chicken, was asked: "Is that as good as the fried chicken cooked in your own house?" "It is better," he concluded, and finished his fries.

Serious

How do you like the restaurant as a whole, I asked. "Nice, has a garden and wishing well outside, has decorations." Is the look of the restaurant more important than the food? Carlo stuck to his guns: customer service and food and freebies are most important. Are there enough or too many waiters? Mari thought they were fine. Maite quietly went through her pancakes, a favorite dish, like a sophisticated lady.

Because this was a workshop, not just a family jaunt, I had turned down the headwaiter's offer to have a table in or near the playroom. "No thanks," I said, "this is a workshop. This is serious."

By dessert time, Carlo was groaning: oh no, no more food, that was enough. But judicious Mari said he would consider a dessert. He chose a Chocolate Sundae, saying he wanted to see how big and good it was (quantity and quality he knew about). It turned out to be in a towering glass, with a maraschino cherry on top. He was delighted, and carefully lifted and ate the cherry, then went slowly down the layers.

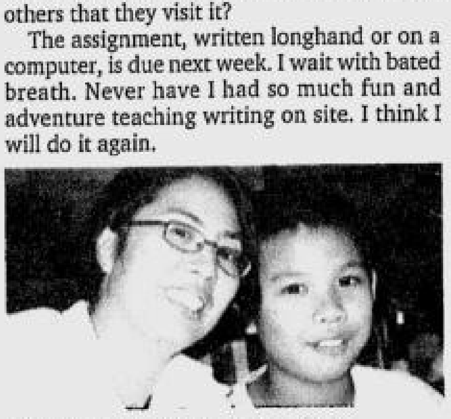
"Let me taste," said the revived Carlo. Maite smiled and refused an offer to taste as well. But Carlo dove in again, and went straight for the bottom, where the darkest chocolate sat. Although Mari protested mildly, the feat delighted Carlo, who asked at least three times: where do you find spoons like this (long-handled)? When I said you could buy them wherever you bought spoons, forks and knives, he said he had not seen any the last time he looked.

Mari and Carlo, by the way, live in Silay City, Negros Occidental, with their parents Reena and Mario, and yet are not provincial in orientation. Maite lives in Pasig with her parents Margie and Kiko Romualdez. They all were totally at ease in Country Waffles, firm in their opinions, and aware of their human rights as diners.

Assignment

Finally I handed around one-page questionnaires. This is a workshop, I said, so you have work to do, an assignment. Write me each a paragraph of at least five sentences, considering the following points: 1. I like/do not like the restaurant (give its name, address and telephone number). Why? 2. I liked/did not like my order of ___. Why? 3. Name two good points you saw in the restaurant. 4. Name two not-so-good points in which you would like the restaurant to improve. 5. Would you return to Country Waffles, and/or suggest to others that they visit it?

The assignment, written longhand or on a computer, is due next week. I wait with bated breath. Never have I had so much fun and adventure teaching writing on site. I think I will do it again.



MARI and his mother Reena Peña

MAITE Romualdez, 5

MOM

Your first teacher. Your staunch supporter.
Your premier adviser. Your no. 1 fan.
Anyway you look at it, there's simply no other
mother as wonderful as your mom.
This Mother's Day, let your mom know how
honored you are to have her as your mother.
Greet her on her special day in the
Mother's Day Special Section of the Inquirer Classifieds.
For a discounted rate of P50 per line
or P150 per column centimeter, show your affection
and appreciation for her
in a unique and loving way.
After all, for everything that she has done, isn't this just
a little something to thank her for giving you life –
and devoting hers to you as well?
And with your placement, your mom gets the chance to win
Avon, David's Salon or Body and Soul Spa gift certificates in our

MOM Makeover
RAFFLE PROMO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MESSAGEBOARD

PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500
   Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.
11. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
12. Promo is valid only in GMA.

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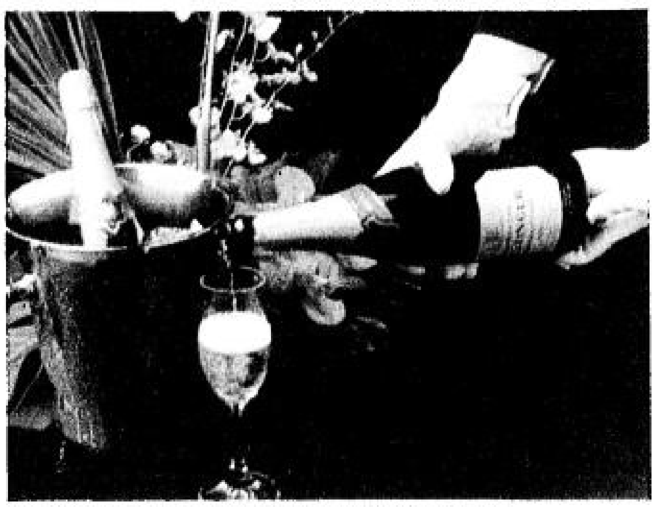
Rates are VAT inclusive and apply only on the May 12 issue.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1572, SERIES OF 2002.

Wine-tasting features 6 Argentinian wines

THE PAN Pacific Manila is hosting a tutored tasting of Argentinian wines from Finca Flichman and the Moet & Chandon subsidiary, Terrazas de los Andes, tonight at 6 at the 21/F Pacific Lounge.



A TASTE of Argentina at The Pan Pacific Manila

Six wines will be tasted, namely, Reserva Chardonnay 1999, Reserva Malbec 1998 and Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 from Finca Flichman; Alto Chat Cloudy 1999, Alto Chavernet Sauvignon 1999 and Alto Malbec 1999 from Terrazas de los Andes.

This tutored tasting, accompanied by a light specialty buffet, will be carried out by Stewart Dovey of Personal Choice Marketing. Stewart, a British national has had more than 16 years experience in the wines and spirits industry. His talk will introduce people to Argentina as a producer of fine wines and give some background on Finca Flichman and Terrazas de los Andes.

This event will be of interest not only to experienced wine drinkers but also to those newly discovering the enjoyment of wine.

Call 536-0788 local 3201, 528-8752; fax 536-0627; e-mail jsv@panpacific.com.

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PANLASANG MATAPANG

VIC Gregorio (second from left), operations director of Popeyes Philippines, accepts the International Franchisee of the Year Award on behalf of Bernadine Siy. Others in photo are (left to right): Dick Holbrook, president and COO of AFC Enterprises; John Luther, president of Popeyes US; Putra Wirakesuma, international director for operations (IDO) of Popeyes US; and Anthony Pavese, international COO of Popeyes US.

Record-breaking franchisee wins international award

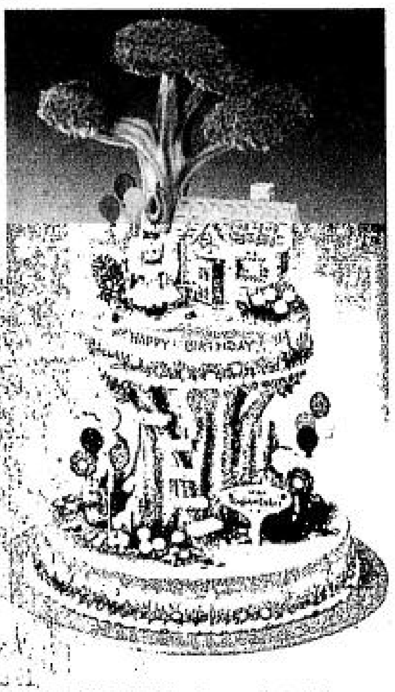
BERNADINE Siy, Philippine franchise holder of Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits, was recently named the food chain's "International Franchisee of the Year" during its annual awards ceremony recognizing Popeyes' top domestic and international franchisees.

Siy earned the award for opening two stores in a record-breaking time of only four months. Normally, it takes a Popeyes franchisee six to 12 months from the signing of the contract to get a store operational. For achieving the same in only four months, Popeyes awarded Siy, paying tribute to her for "Unsurpassed Dedication and Effort Benefiting the Popeyes System in 2001" during the conference held in New Orleans to celebrate Popeyes' 30th anniversary.

Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits is a world-renowned quick-service restaurant from the United States specializing in unique and flavorful New Orleans-inspired dishes. Its banner products include "New Orleans-style" fried chicken, soft and fluffy buttermilk biscuits, Cajun side dishes and delicious battered seafood offerings.

Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits restaurants are located at Robinsons Metro East in Cainta and SM Southmall in Las Piñas.

ONE of Popeyes' banner products: "New Orleans-style" fried chicken



EYE-CATCHING, fun and delicious kiddie cakes that are ideal for any celebration are the newest offerings of Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc. Included is the Kelly cake, which is available in different sizes and delightful flavors such as vanilla, mocha, chocolate, butter, choco caramel and rocky road. Visit any Goldilocks Bakeshop to check out the wide array of colorful decorated kiddie cakes to suit your child's most cherished occasion.

Cooking classes for children

VICKY Veloso-Barrera's Tiny Kitchen Cooking School for children will have two additional cooking classes this May. On Monday and Wednesday mornings, she will be conducting Tiny Kitchen 1 for 5-7 years old. Each session is from 9 to 11 a.m. and one main dish and dessert is taught at each session. Cost for five sessions is P2,000 inclusive of all ingredients. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Vicky will be teaching Tiny Kitchen 2 for 8-13 years old. Sessions are also from 9 to 11 a.m.

All classes are held at Vicky's home at 520 Protacio St., Pasay City. Call 843-1303, 844-7917 or 0917-6184612.

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It's an all-night galactic party at the Star Wars™ Festival this Friday, May 10 at 6 pm in Eastwood City, Libis!

- Sample any of the specially prepared *Star Wars* concoctions and dishes from our participating bars and restaurants.
- Watch the highlights of *Star Wars* Episodes IV, V, VI and I.
- Be any exotic alien from the *Star Wars* universe! Avail of the services of our roving face-painters and tattoo artists.
- See the stellar fireworks display.

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- Or be among the first 300 GENTXTrs at the venue in order to get free entrance.

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6pm, myGlobe booth
If you're among the first to flash your newly downloaded *Star Wars* icon or text card at the registration booth, you automatically win prizes!

Join Padme's Masquerade Ball!
6pm to 12mn, Eastwood CityWalk
Come as your favorite *Star Wars* character and get instant freebies. However, only the best costumes win phones!

Play the Star Wars Trivia Game!
9 pm onwards, Stage Area
Give the correct answers and score the most points to get a brand new Nokia 5210.

To get a complete *Star Wars* experience,
Text EP2 to 2342

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For more details, log on to www.myglobe.com.ph. Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. A3-291, 292 and 270, Series of 2002.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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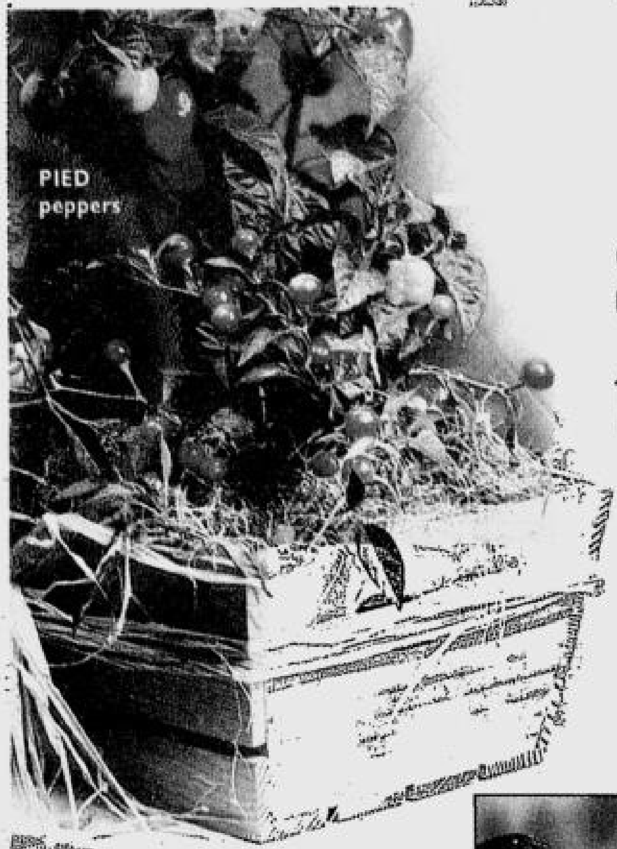
Benzoic Acid, Clioquinol, Sulfur, Salicylic Acid Menthol, Cetyl Alcohol
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor

Say it with herbs this Mother's Day



PIED peppers

THIS Mother's Day, show Mom that you love her with a gift of aromatic and decorative herbs she can use to either spice up her cooking, decorate the living room or add fragrance to aromatherapy.

The Flower Farm Corp. offers a selection of fragrant herbs such as spearmint, rosemary, tarragon, chives and sweet basil, packaged in charming pinewood boxes. Among the unique designs created by The Flower Farm are Pied Peppers (mild to extra spicy potted peppers in a pinewood box); Dynamic Duo (any two of your preferred herbs arranged in a pinewood box); and Picket Sampler (an arrangement of any four potted herbs in a picket-fence box).

These herbs are some of the main culinary spices used especially for Mediterranean dishes. They add flavor to many recipes and yield fragrant oils. They also have medicinal value.

The herbs are easy to care for. With just a bit of water and sunshine, they are perfect for starting Mom's backyard herb garden, or for simply brightening up the kitchen windowsill.

The Flower Farm also offers beautiful gerbera, chrysanthemum and callisthephus arrangements.

Call 815-6665 to 68.

SPRING bouquet

Mother's Day!
ACTIVITY AREA
MAY 10 • 11am-9pm
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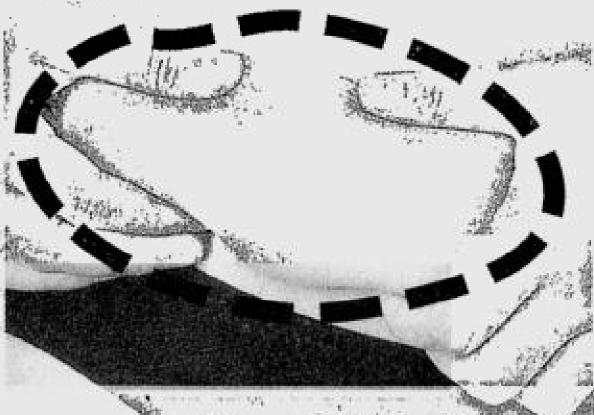
Do you have a "JELLY BELLY"?

Is your flabby tummy "jiggling" with excess fat? Reduce and firm up your "jelly belly" with this special offer from Marie-France:



Enroll now and get
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PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS TREATMENTS
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The **Physique Inch-Loss Treatment** uses computer-controlled electro-energy to reduce and firm up your flabby tummy. Inches of excess fat are reduced significantly to create a slimmer look. A single 15-minute session of this non-invasive treatment is already equivalent to about 225 sit-ups! It's like working out without straining or sweating it out.

Change your tummy from "jelly belly" to flat and firm.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0811 Series of 2002

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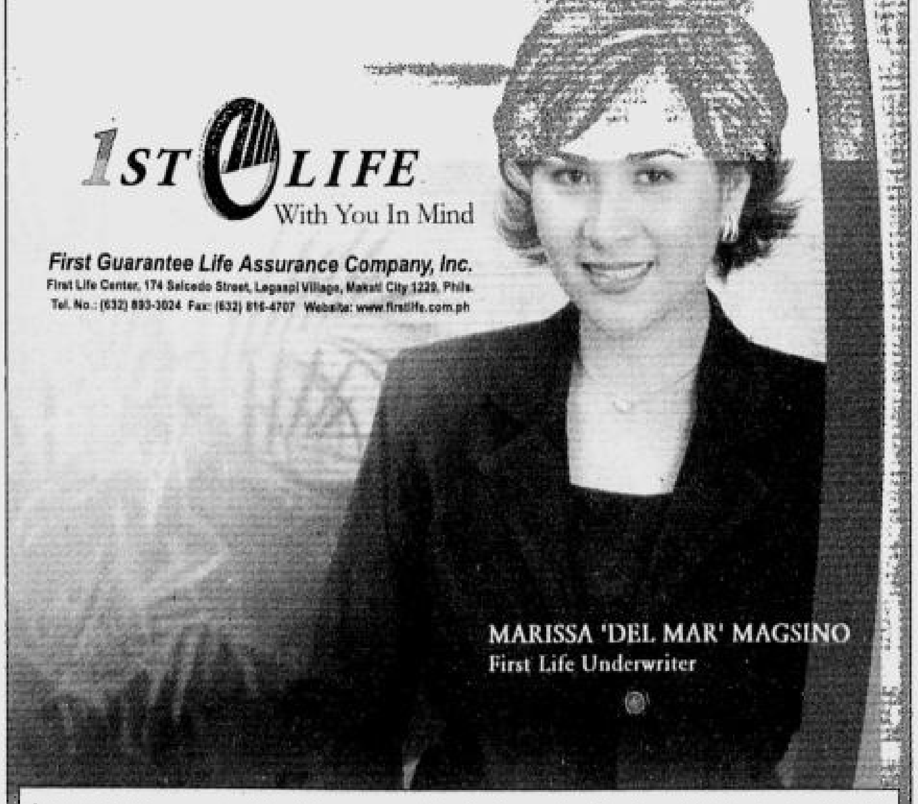

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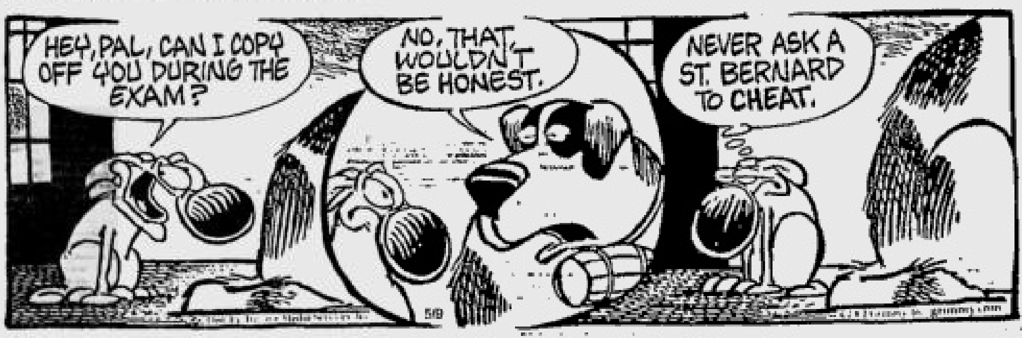
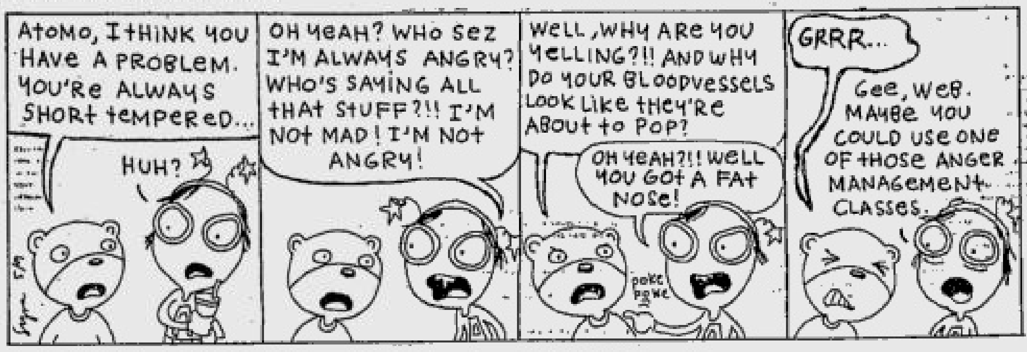
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HEY, PAL, CAN I COPY OFF YOU DURING THE EXAM?
NO, THAT WOULDN'T BE HONEST.
NEVER ASK A ST. BERNARD TO CHEAT.
5/9

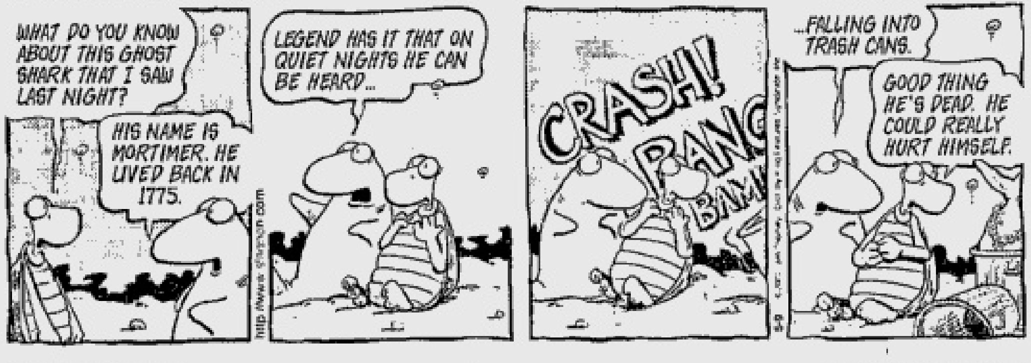
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Atomo, I think you have a problem. You're always short tempered...
HUH?
OH YEAH? WHO SEZ I'M ALWAYS ANGRY? WHO'S SAYING ALL THAT STUFF?!! I'M NOT MAD! I'M NOT ANGRY!
WELL, WHY ARE YOU YELLING?!! AND WHY DO YOUR BLOODVESSELS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO POP?
OH YEAH?!! WELL YOU GOT A FAT NOSE!
poke
GRRR...
Gee, Web. Maybe you could use one of those anger management classes.

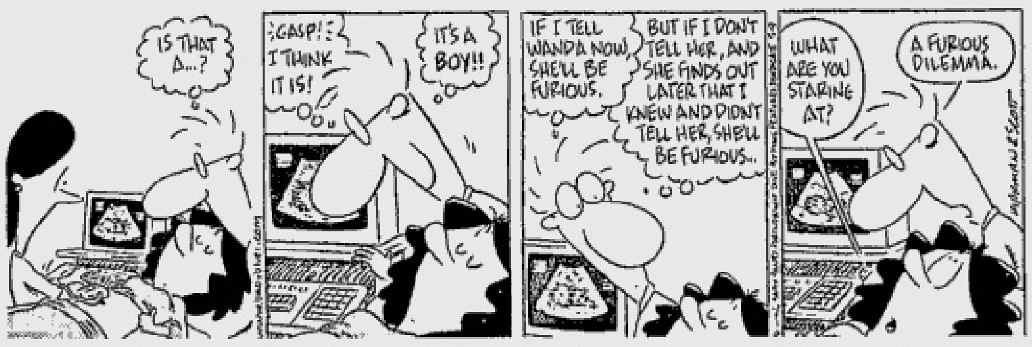
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS GHOST SHARK THAT I SAW LAST NIGHT?
HIS NAME IS MORTIMER. HE LIVED BACK IN 1775.
LEGEND HAS IT THAT ON QUIET NIGHTS HE CAN BE HEARD...
CRASH! BANG BAM
...FALLING INTO TRASH CANS.
GOOD THING HE'S DEAD. HE COULD REALLY HURT HIMSELF.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IS THAT A...?
GASP! I THINK IT IS!
IT'S A BOY!!
IF I TELL WANDA NOW, SHE'LL BE FURIOUS.
BUT IF I DON'T TELL HER, AND SHE FINDS OUT LATER THAT I KNEW AND DIDN'T TELL HER, SHE'LL BE FURIOUS...
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
A FURIOUS DILEMMA.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Joel, Mike Wallace, Candice Bergen, Albert Finney

Happy Birthday: You will be tempted to deal with secret organizations this year, and you will meet dubious individuals if you pursue such groups. Take a good look at the people around you and rid yourself of those who are likely to lead you astray. This is a year of change but only if you take the initiative. Your numbers are 5, 17, 23, 27, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be able to make financial gains through work as long as you don't do business with friends or relatives. Check out financial opportunities that look promising.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Involvement with people from different backgrounds will be enlightening. Listen for new ideas. Traveling will help you curb your restless nature.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend time with family. If you put your mind to it you can accomplish a lot. Direct your energy into home-improvement projects. Actions will speak louder than words today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be afraid to try new things. The people around you will be helpful so listen to what they have to say. Join new groups that interest you and new friendships will develop.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Financial opportunities are present but you will have to act quickly. Concentrate on your career objectives and you will put yourself in a good position for advancement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Nothing will run smoothly when it comes to your partnerships. Both business and personal relationships will be tense if you have been evading issues that should have been dealt with already.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more time and effort into getting your personal and financial papers in order. Do not overspend on luxury items. Luck is with you but you must be wise in your choices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make a romantic statement. You will be in an intimate mood and most understanding of others' needs. Much can be accomplished if you talk about your future and your intentions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful not to overspend on things that are not necessary. You can make financial gains but only if you are wise in your investments. Your tendency to take a risk may pose a problem in your personal life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social events that involve close friends or children should be on your agenda. Opportunities to expand your horizons will come through learning, travel or the information you pick up from others.

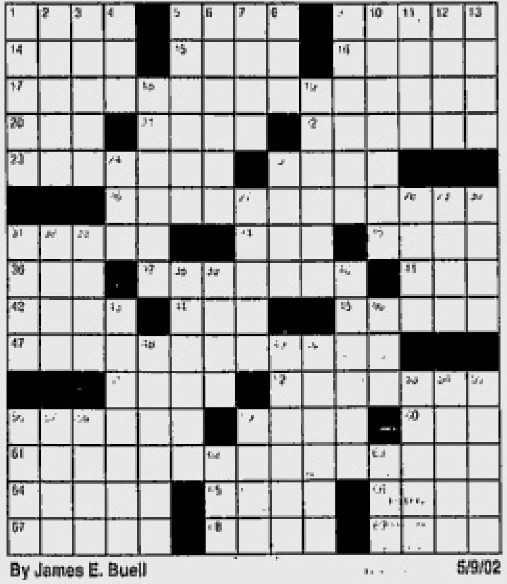
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your recollection of your younger days will have an impact on you today. It may result in helping you do a job much better. You can make changes to your life .

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be in the mood for love whether you are in a relationship already or not. Keep an open mind and gravitate toward those who are unique and creative.

Birthday Baby: You will need to be allowed the freedom to come and go as you please. Your curiosity will lead you into all sorts of interesting situations. Although you will learn quickly you will also want to take the road less traveled.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

5/9/02

ACROSS
1 Crones
5 Between ports
9 Progeny
14 __ podrida
15 Young seals
16 Folklore imp
17 Does some hefty headwork
20 Sharer's pronoun
21 Ye __ shoppe
22 Runs under water
23 Germ-free
25 Two words of denial
26 Flies off the handle
31 Perez or O'Donnell
34 Wood-shaping tool
35 Forum frock
36 Period of history
37 Obsolete
41 Role for Will Smith
42 Supports for glasses
44 Boozer
45 Equestrian
47 Comes apart at the seams
51 Temple University athletes
52 Multi-deck game
56 Expiated
59 Irish city
60 Tie the knot
61 Leaves open-mouthed
64 Angler's basket
65 Copied
66 Basilica section
67 Burpee buy
68 Mexican coin
69 Clarinet, e.g.

DOWN
1 Tramps
2 Rat Island native
3 Harsh reflection
4 Rode the bench
5 "__ 13"
6 Carnivorous plant
7 Fencing foil
8 Buffoon
9 Pixie
10 Keyboard player
11 Rotation line
12 Oenologist's interest
13 Crime-stopper Eliot
18 Made dirty
19 Olive brown
24 Slugger's stat
25 Silent assents
27 Quick fry
28 Leaping amphibian
29 Eye lasciviously
30 Twosome
31 Atoll barrier
32 Type of exam
33 Agra attire
38 Tristan's love
39 Chips off the old block
40 Guzzles
43 Freeloaded
46 Crete's highest peak
48 Expands
49 Scottish teacakes
50 City on the Rio Grande
53 Pilfer
54 On edge
55 Said further
56 Rudiments
57 Ripped up
58 S-shaped molding
59 Manage to deal with
62 Spring runner
63 Deface

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

I	T	C	H	■	A	B	E	T	■	M	I	D	A	S
S	W	A	Y	■	B	L	U	E	■	A	D	O	R	E
L	I	S	P	■	B	A	R	E	■	R	A	M	I	E
E	N	T	E	R	E	D	O	N	E	S	H	E	A	D
■	■	■	■	E	Y	E	■	■	R	H	O	■	■	■
F	R	A	C	A	S	■	A	W	A	Y	■	A	R	C
A	U	G	U	R	■	I	B	I	S	■	A	S	I	A
C	R	O	S	S	E	D	O	N	E	S	M	I	N	D
T	A	N	S	■	M	O	V	E	■	H	E	D	G	E
S	L	Y	■	A	B	L	E	■	E	R	N	E	S	T
■	■	■	E	V	E	■	■	G	N	U	■	■	■	■
A	D	D	L	E	D	O	N	E	S	B	R	A	I	N
D	R	E	A	R	■	R	A	N	I	■	A	U	T	O
D	I	E	T	S	■	B	R	I	G	■	F	R	E	T
S	P	R	E	E	■	S	K	I	N	■	T	A	M	E

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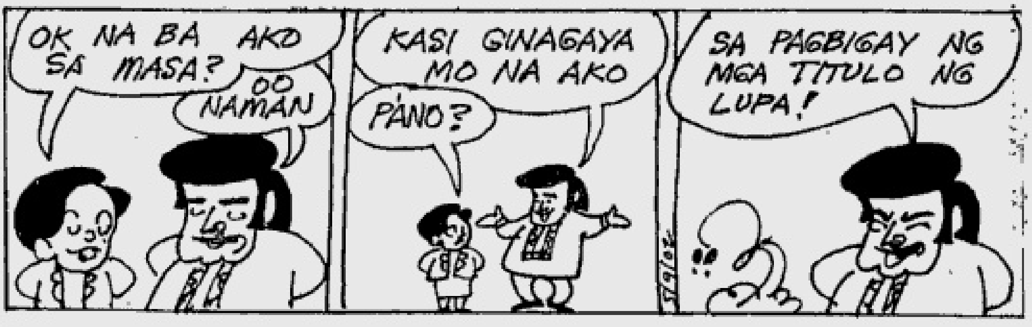
5/8/02

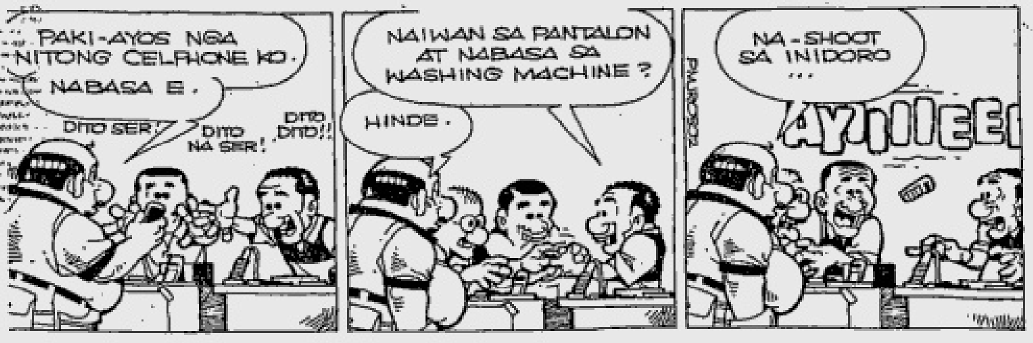
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK NA BA AKO SA MASA?
OO NAMAN
KASI GINAGAYA MO NA AKO
PANO?
SA PAGBIGAY NG MGA TITULO NG LUPA!
5/9/02

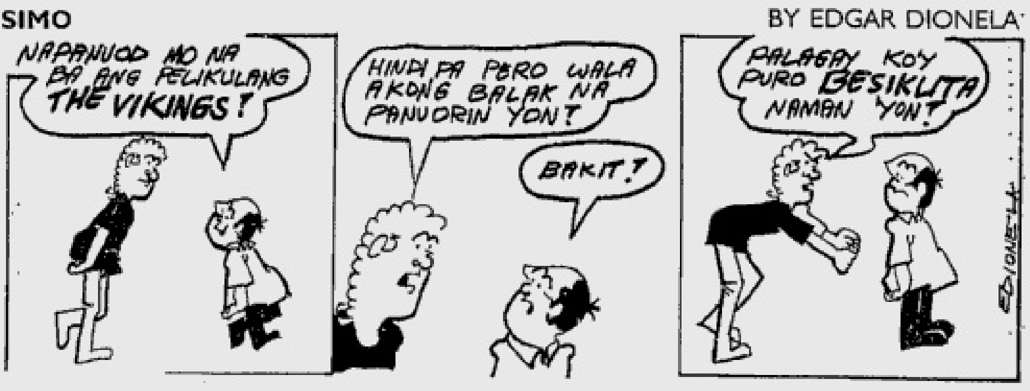
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAKI-AYOS NGA NITONG CELPHONE KO. NABASA E.
DITO SER!
DITO NA SER!
DITO DITO!!
NAIWAN SA PANTALON AT NABASA SA WASHING MACHINE?
HINDE.
NA-SHOOT SA INIDORO ...
AYIIIEE

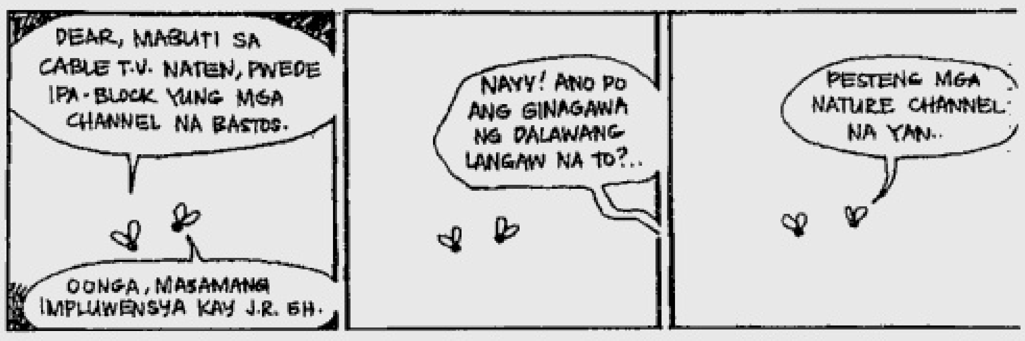
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAPANUOD MO NA BA ANG PELIKULANG THE VIKINGS!
HINDI PA PERO WALA AKONG BALAK NA PANUORIN YON!
BAKIT?
PALAGAY KOY PURO BESIKLETA NAMAN YON!
DIONELA

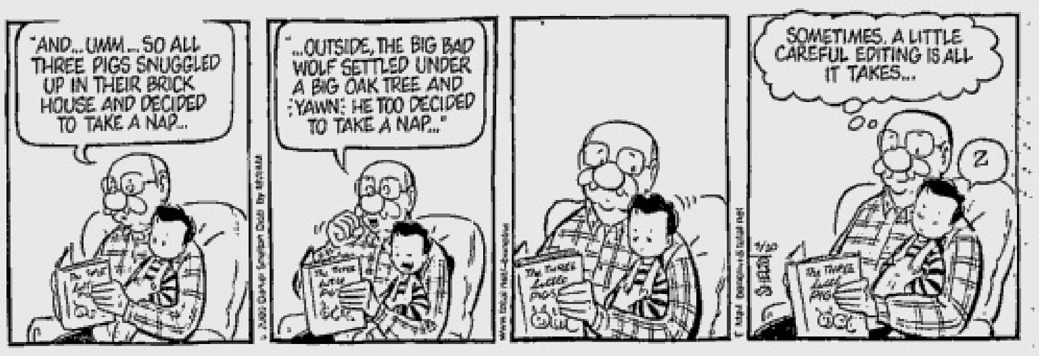
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, MABUTI SA CABLE T.V. NATEN, PWEDE IPA-BLOCK YUNG MGA CHANNEL NA BASTOS.
OONGA, MASAMANG IMPLUWENSYA KAY J.R. 'EH.
NAYY! ANO PO ANG GINAGAWA NG DALAWANG LANGAW NA TO?..
PESTENG MGA NATURE CHANNEL NA YAN..

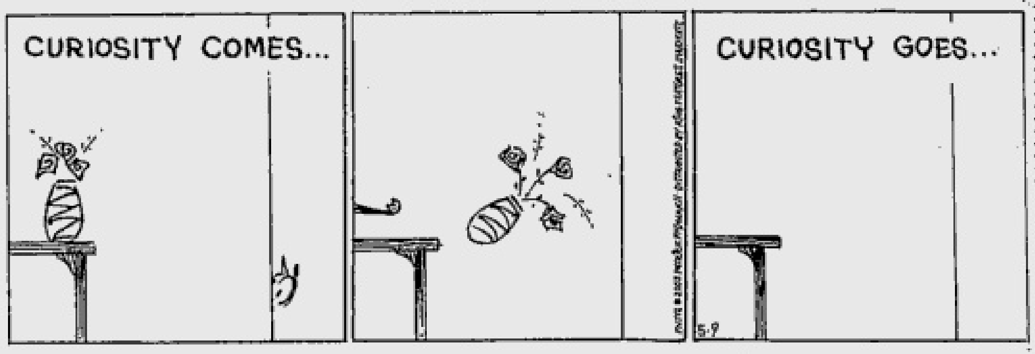
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


"AND...UMM...SO ALL THREE PIGS SNUGGLED UP IN THEIR BRICK HOUSE AND DECIDED TO TAKE A NAP...
"...OUTSIDE, THE BIG BAD WOLF SETTLED UNDER A BIG OAK TREE AND YAWN: HE TOO DECIDED TO TAKE A NAP..."
SOMETIMES, A LITTLE CAREFUL EDITING IS ALL IT TAKES...
Z
The Three Little Pigs

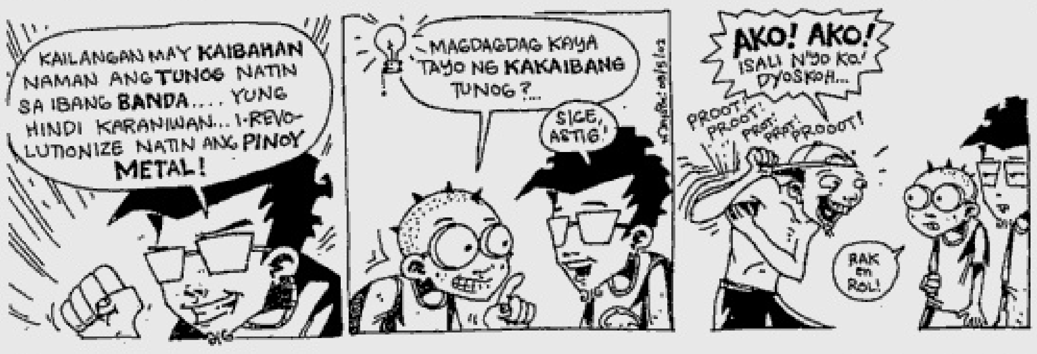
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CURIOSITY COMES...
CURIOSITY GOES...
5-9

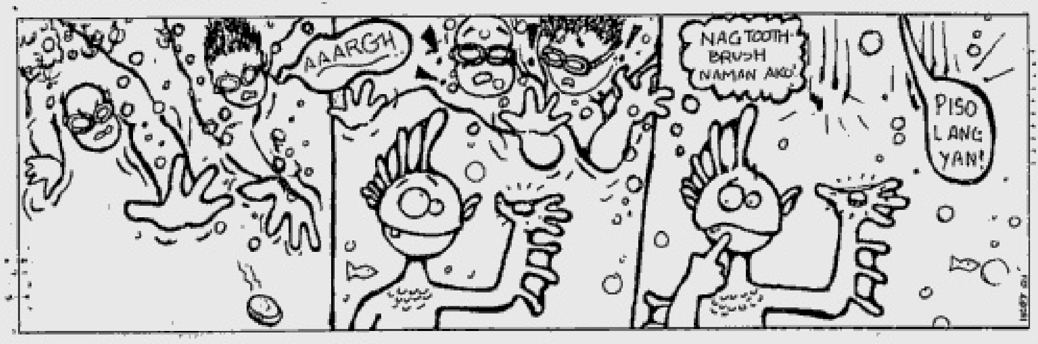
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KAILANGAN MAY KAIBAHAN NAMAN ANG TUNOG NATIN SA IBANG BANDA.... YUNG HINDI KARANIWAN... I-REVOLUTIONIZE NATIN ANG PINOY METAL!
MAGDAGDAG KAYA TAYO NG KAKAIBANG TUNOG?...
SIGE, ASTIG!
AKO! AKO! ISALI N'YO KO! DYOSKOH...
PROOT! PROOT! PRRT! PRRT! PROOOT!
RAK en ROL!

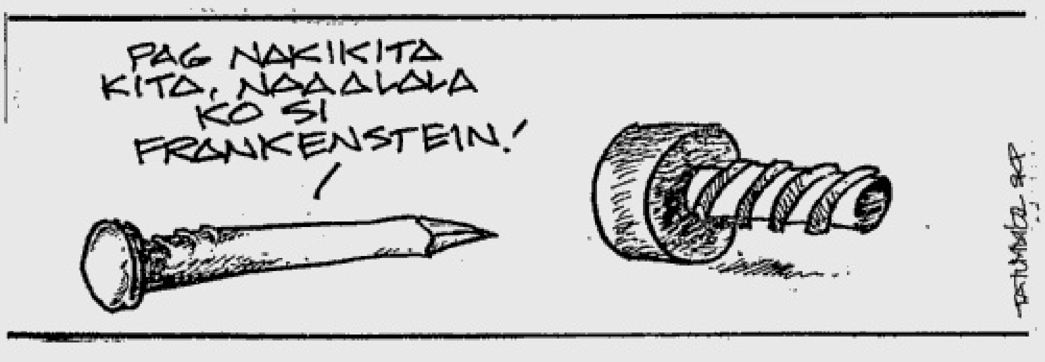
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


AAARGH
NAG TOOTHBRUSH NAMAN AKO!
PISO LANG YAN!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAG NAKIKITA KITA, NAAALALA KO SI FRANKENSTEIN!

Cantonese diner prepares special set menu and lauriat for moms

DINING OUT

JADE GARDEN Cantonese Restaurant offers a special Mother's Day set menu that's good for four persons. The menu includes dried scallop with fish lip soup, Peking duck, hot shrimps with fruit cocktail mayonnaise, steamed king fish, crabs with ginger and spring onions, braised *e fu* noodles and sweet dimsum pastries for dessert.

A 10-course lauriat is offered for 10 persons. The menu includes roasted meat combination, dried scallop with fish lip soup, Peking duck, hot shrimps with fruit cocktail mayonnaise, steamed Hilsa Herring fish, crabs with *tausi* and garlic, minced Peking duck with lettuce, fried rice with diced abalone and chicken topping, braised *e fu* noodles and sweet dimsum pastries.

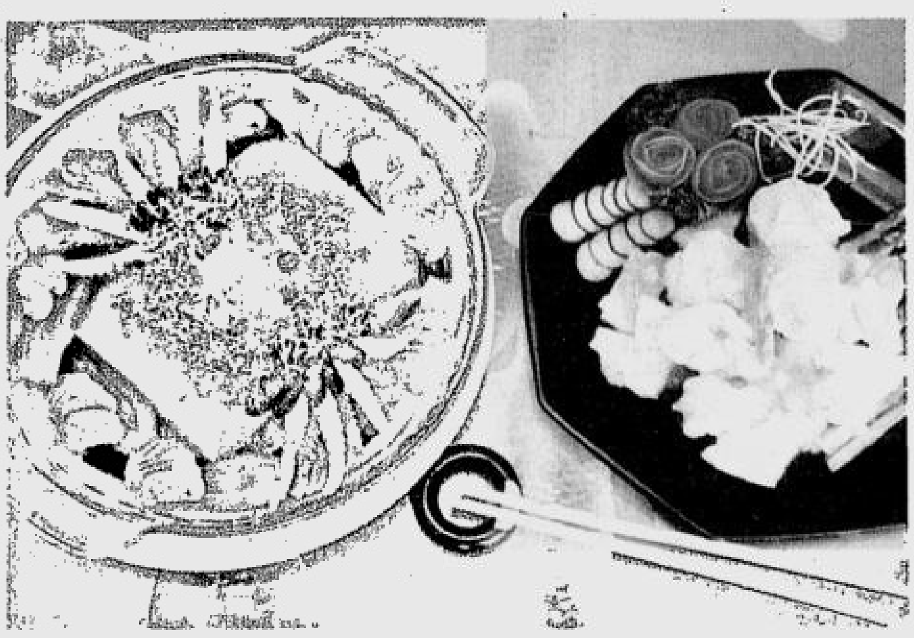
Every mother gets a "lovely heart" mango *sago* as a bonus dessert to sweeten her special day. Jade Garden is at Greenbelt Mall 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 812-4548 or 892-2636.

PEKING GARDEN offers a week-long set menu for Mom and the entire family. A 10-course menu including four kinds of appetizers, double boiled chicken and dried whelk with Chinese herbs soup, Peking duck, sautéed prawns in fresh pineapple, crispy greenish eel, stewed winter melon with crispy *conpoy*, steamed crabs with minced garlic, Peking Garden fried rice, steamed supreme soup and pork dumpling and to cap the meal, chilled mango shake with *sago*. Peking Garden is at the 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 817-9066/67.

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant calls on families to bring their moms at the restaurant and savor its set menus that range from P3,250+ (for six persons) and P5,200+ (for 10 persons) to P5,100+ (six persons) and P8,100+ (10 persons). The set menus include appetizers, soups, main courses and desserts. Kimpura is at the 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 893-2307 or 892-4456) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (721-8816/69).

SBARRO Italian Eatery celebrates Mother's Day with special gifts for moms. Sbarro has made available elegant candleholders for all mothers to take home when they dine at all Sbarro outlets on this special day.

Sbarro branches are located at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall A, Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, Robinsons Place Manila and Festival Supermall in Alabang.



STEWED winter melon with crispy *conpoy* and sautéed prawns in fresh pineapple at Peking Garden

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers special dishes for moms. Burgoo, with Equal Sweetener, is giving away a specially made apron for all moms. For every order of any of the following Burgoo's Brilliant Choices such as Shrimp Pomelo Salad, Grilled Steak and Steam Salmon Supreme, Prawns Cacciotore and Seafood Jambalaya, plus a Sugarfree Raspberry Cheesecake, your mom will automatically bring home a lovely apron from Equal Sweetener. Burgoo branches are located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC; 3/L Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and at the 2/L The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-5254.

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S offers a special treat for moms: P200 worth of gift certificates that she can use on her next visit.

Choose from the restaurant's selection of appetizers and salads plus American-style pasta, chicken and pork entrées and seafood. Try desserts such as Mocha Mud Pie or New York-style Cheesecake. Try the Friday's Fiesta that includes Inihaw na Liempo, Chicken Barbecue, Friday's Gambas and Grilled Pampano. T.G.I.Friday's are at the Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City, Alabang Town Center or Sta. Lucia East.

OUTBACK Restaurant offers Alaskan King Crab Legs that's guaranteed to satisfy mom's craving for good food. The dish is a 1¼-pound King Crab Legs served with Aussie chips.

Try Outback's selection of steaks, Aussie-tizers, pasta, seafood, burgers and chops. Specialty drinks and wines are likewise offered to complement your Auss'm meal.

Also available is The Outback Special, which you can enjoy at the best value for only P345.

GLOBAL Restaurant Management Group greets all mothers on their special day in all its gourmet haute cuisine and house-of-treat outposts: Tequila Joe's, Buddies, California Pizza Kitchen and Cafe All Day.

Get a free Lipton Ice Tea as you order a pasta or entrée for Mom and get a gift for Mom from Tequila Joe's. California Pizza Kitchen offers a Mother's Day treat: a free butter lollipop cookie without a minimum purchase required.

Buddies will also be giving out a bunch of butter cookies to all mothers. Sunday at Café All Day also celebrates Mother's Day by giving away Lipton tea bags and butter cookies.

Tequila Joe's branches are at El Pueblo in Ortigas, Alabang Town Center and, at the Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center. TJ's Cebu is also now open. You can dine in at California Pizza Kitchen located at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City; Alabang Town Center; and the Shangri-La Mall.

Buddies is located at the Millennium Place, Meralco Avenue, Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center, and at the Alabang Town Center while Café All Day is located at the 2/F of Tequila Joe's El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

> Get mom out of the kitchen and take her out to dine on the best cuisine in town

MOTHER's day offering at Burgoo. Prawns Cacciotore and shrimp *pomelo* salad

DUSIT Hotel's Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant offers a lunch or dinner set menu. The menu includes Por Pia Savoey (Thai spring rolls), Tom Yam Talay (Thai hot mix seafood soup), Neua Phad Nam Man Hoy (sautéed beef with oyster sauce), Gaeng Kiew Wan Gung (green curry with prawns and young coconut hearts), Phad Pak Benjarong (assorted fried meat or seafood with vegetables), Morakot Krob (jellied water chestnut with coconut milk in crushed ice) with brewed coffee or hot tea and complimentary glass of Thai iced tea or pandan juice.

Discover the flavors of Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant, which offers a fusion of Vietnamese, Asian and French cuisine. Sample this menu, which includes Cha Gio (fried spring rolls), Mien Ga (chicken and rice noodle soup), Ca Nuong (grilled salmon steak with spicy lime sauce), Banh Phu The (husband and wife cake).

The Café restaurant features a lunch and dinner buffet of grilled seafood and sirloin steak, sushi, sashimi, salads and desserts. Children below 12 years old will get a 50-percent discount.

Relish authentic Japanese culinary treats with Dusit's new teppanyaki menus, à la carte favorites at the main dining area and for the freshest sashimi and sushi at the Sushi bar, all these only at the Benkay.

Plus, all mothers dining on May 12 will receive a surprise from Dusit Hotel. Call 867-3333 local 3301 to 3303.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA has lined up delicious culinary offerings on Mother's Day. For starters, all dining moms will receive a special gift bag from cosmetics giant Shiseido.

Island Café features Mother's Day buffet consisting of international favorites like assorted maki and sushi from Japan, a Chinese-style hanging barbecue station with roasted suckling pig, duckling and pork Char Siu, Mediterranean delicacies such as shawarma, and imported Roast Prime Rib along with a variety of soups, salads, main courses and desserts. The whole family can indulge in more than 16 varieties of Continental dishes with Cheval Blanc's lunch buffet. In the evening, the chef presents a special five-course Mother's Day a dinner set menu.

Japanese food lovers will enjoy Inagiku's lunch buffet spread that offers soups, salads, Assorted Tempura, Chicken Teriyaki, Sake Teriyaki, Sukiyaki, Yaki-Udon and assorted Teppan dishes. Shang Palace showcases three kinds of family-style banquet set menus good for 10 persons. The menu includes Chinese Barbecue Platter, Steamed Lapu-Lapu, and Baked Crab with Ginger and Scallion, Minced Duck Meat stuffed in Lettuce, and Braised Shark's Fin Soups. Call 813-8888 local 7024.

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL'S Café Jeepney offers lunch or dinner buffet of Filipino and international delicacies. Or feast on chef Cyrille Soenen's gourmet offerings at Prince Albert Rotisserie open for lunch and dinner. Among the delightful items in chef Soenen's menu are Pan-fried Duck Liver on Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Herb Salad and Caramelized Red Onions, Cream of Sea Urchin in Cappuccino, Roasted Seabass with Sun-dried Tomatoes, Spinach and Mushrooms and Banana Flambe with Gingerbread Ice Cream and Caramel Butter Sauce. A complimentary family photo and gifts worth over P300,000 await all mothers who dine at any of these two restaurants. Call 819-0645.

MANILA DIAMOND Hotel offers special treats for moms. At the Palm Court Cafe, a buffet spread awaits mom and her family. For every group of six availing of the buffet, mom dines for free. A special gift is reserved for mom, compliments of the hotel. For dessert, a Mango Cake Mirroire at the Tea Lounge. Call 526-2211 local 1520/1521.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE Hotel celebrates Mother's Day with a buffet of international dishes accentuated by three carvery items—Lechon, Roast Beef and Turkey—for lunch and dinner at the Lobby Lounge, with a special Mother's Day lunch buffet. For an Oriental feast, Emperor Court prepares Cantonese dishes that include Suckling Pig, Peking Duck and an assortment of dimsum for lunch or dinner. Should mom prefer dining in style, Bocarinos features Continental fare for lunch and dinner.

NATIONAL SPORTS GRILL salutes all moms. All mothers (including would-be mothers) who will celebrate this memorable day at NSG will receive NSG certificates and gifts from Kraft Foods, Orient Day Spa, Plandre Salon, Revlon, Athena and Calciumade and Body Shop on May 10-13. National Sports Grill is at the 3/L Greenbelt 1, Makati City. Call 752-5431.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S offers 2+1 Mother's Day Special May 10-11. For only P8,000 for a Garden Wing Deluxe Room or P6,600 in a Tower Wing Superior Room, stay two nights and get one night free or get two rooms and get a third room for free. Package comes with buffet breakfast on the first two days or the first two rooms only plus a 10-percent discount on spa treatment. On May 11 and 12, try Garden Cafe's lunch and dinner buffet featuring a prime rib carvery, crepe station, fresh lobster and a special Mother's Day drink. Summer Palace serves Festive Chinese lunch and dinner set menus for 10-12 persons featuring Peking duck, scallops with walnut and broccoli, fried crabs, rock lobster in black bean sauce, suckling pig, crispy pigeon, hot prawn salad and many more. Enjoy Paparazzi's special lunch buffet with prime rib carvery, lobster, prawns, a cheeseboard and pasta station prepared by Italian resident chef Giuliano Ungaro. Inaho Tei offers Japanese treats like sushi, sashimi, tempura, lobster teppanyaki plus bottomless iced tea at the lunch buffet. Make it a memorable lunch date with mom at the Lobby Lounge with a buffet of Prone Rib carvery, lobsters, and prawns.

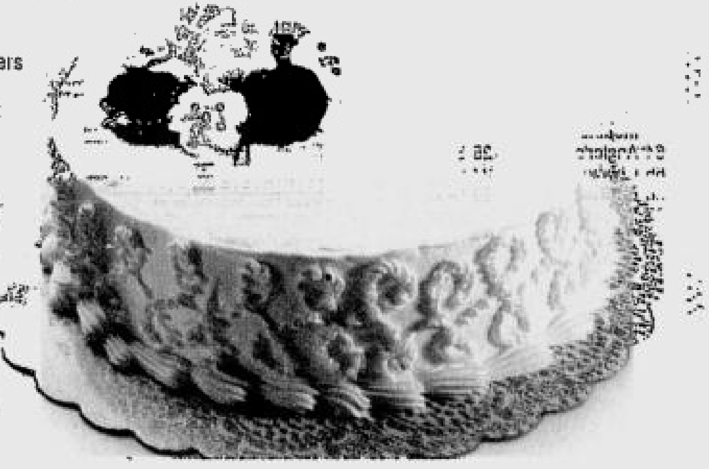
Kids get 50-percent discount at Garden Cafe, Paparazzi and Inaho Tei when dining with two paying adults. Call 636-9083 to -87 or 633-8888 local 2738 and 2739.

HOLIDAY INN Manila's Café Coquilla offers a special buffet feast. Delight her with Lamb Stew Zavarin, Pork Schnitzel, Roast Duck à la Orange, Seafood Thermidor, Pan-fried Salmon Grenobloise, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Beef with Asparagus in Oyster Sauce, and Assorted Buttered Vegetable with Asparagus.

The special Mother's Day buffet is available for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Café Coquilla at P650+ per person. Call 526-1212 local 2318.

MANILA MIDTOWN Hotel's executive chef Stefan Farkas whips up a buffet at the Vogue Coffeeshop for lunch and dinner. Sample Paella, Shell Fish Stew and Marinated Porkloin with Sweet Red Peppers. Cap this dining experience with sinful servings of crêpes señorita, orange caramel custard, or Swiss roll with rum cream filling. HSBC Red MasterCard, Marks & Spencer, Wyeth, Nivea, Kellogg's, Robinsons Dreamtown and Supermarket and the Ritz Spa will give away gifts for moms. All mothers dining in on May 12 are entitled to join the raffle where lovely prizes await. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

CRAVINGS is offering a special menu on Mother's Day weekend where moms get a free makeover coupon from The Body Shop. Mothers dining in with a minimum purchase of P500 until today, May 9, will be given free coupons for a relaxing Ayurveda Hand Massage from The Body Shop. Plus, the Body Shop masseuse visits Cravings outlets in Shangri-La Mall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Asturias Street, Wilson Street, Katipunan Avenue and Cravings Group affiliates like C2 Restaurant and Bar at the 5/F AIM Conference Center and Monsoon Restaurant in Linden Suites, Ortigas until May 12 to give free hand massages. Cravings also offers product gift packages for mothers including recipe books and assorted baked goodies. Call Cravings Center at 426-6681.



THREE LAYERS OF LOVE. For mom, Cravings offers the Lemon Meringue Torte, a three-layered cashew meringue filled with lemon custard for only P595.

The fun begins on May 9! Admission is FREE!

MAY 9-12, 2002
MEGATRADE HALL 3
5TH LEVEL, BLDG B
SM MEGAMALL

[illegible]

Complementing the trade and sales exhibition would be a four-day event showcasing an array of fun-filled activities for the whole family. The trade & sales show includes a comprehensive selection of:

- infant and toddler merchandise
- health services and personal care
- insurance, health care programs
- toys and toy equipment
- apparel and accessories
- nursery items
- furniture and fixtures
- gifts and novelty items
- nutritionals
- prep schools
- educational materials and supplies
- and many more

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Special Events by Unilab Nutritionals
- Film Showing by ABS-CBN
- Obstacle Course
- Battle of the Bulilit Brains
- Uno Stacko Game
- Product Presentations
- Kiddie Fashion Show
- Plus the real Thomas the Train!

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION on May 12, 2002

DON'T MISS the 7th Everything for Babies and Kids 2002. Great buys, fun, games, surprises and prizes await you and your family! Be there!

For inquiries, please contact
VISIONS IMEX, INC.
Look for Arlene or Val
Rm. 1105, One Magnificent Mile Bldg., San Miguel Ave.Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City
Tel 6877704, 6877694
Telefax 6877704
Mobile (0919) 5812945

7th Everything for Babies & Kids! TRADE FAIR 2002

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Nutritionals
Committed to total quality nutrition

MEDIA PARTNER
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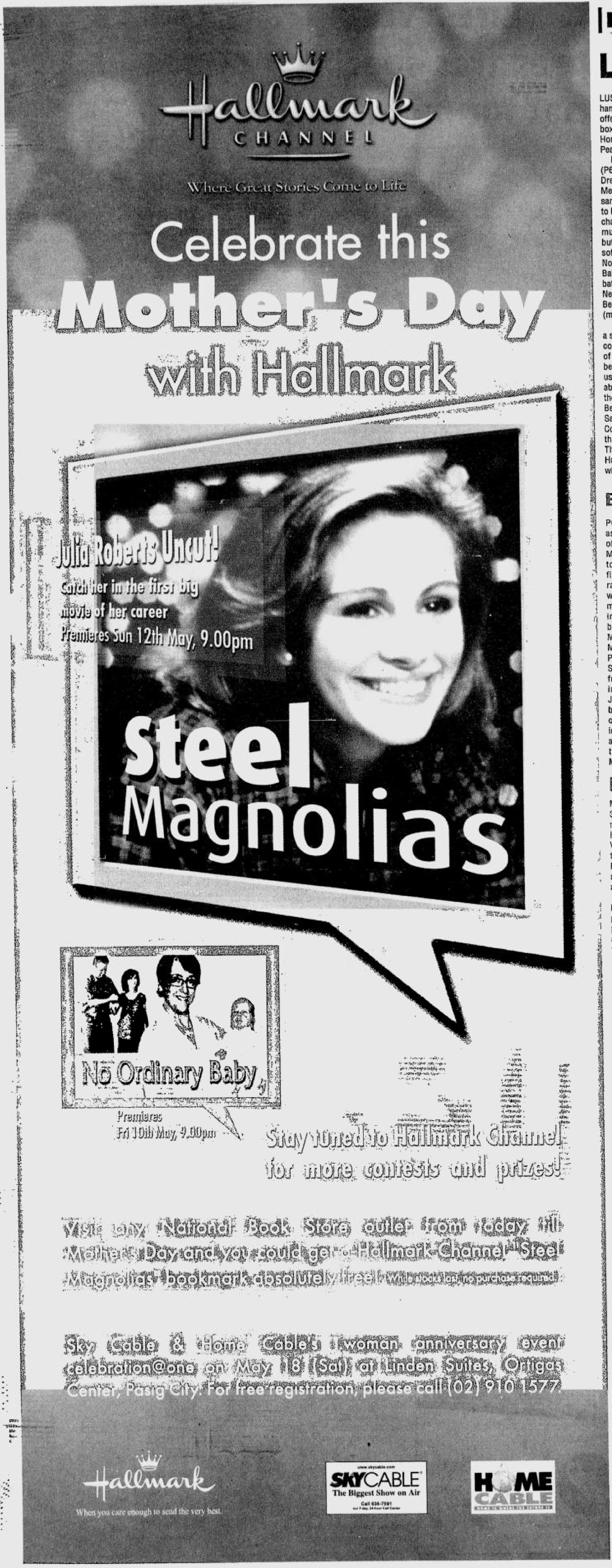
VISIONS IMEX INC.


Hallmark CHANNEL
Where Great Stories Come to Life
Celebrate this
Mother's Day
with Hallmark
Julia Roberts Uncut!
Catch her in the first big movie of her career
Premieres Sun 12th May, 9.00pm
Steel
Magnolias
No Ordinary Baby
Premieres
Fri 10th May, 9.00pm
Stay tuned to Hallmark Channel for more contests and prizes!
Visit any National Book Store outlet from today till Mother's Day and you could get a Hallmark Channel "Steel Magnolias" bookmark absolutely free! (While stocks last, no purchase required)
Sky Cable & Home Cable's 1woman anniversary event celebration@one on May 18 (Sat) at Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For free registration, please call (02) 910 1577.
Hallmark
When you care enough to send the very best.
SKYCABLE
The Biggest Show on Air
HOME CABLE

Lush day for mothers

LUSH Relax Box gift set

LUSH, makers of fresh handmade cosmetics, offers Mother's Day gift boxes—Relax Box, Honey Farm and Give Peace a Chance.

Lush's Relax Box (P675) is composed of Dreamtime Luxury Bath Melt (made of lavender, sandalwood and jasmine to help relax the mind; chamomile to relax the muscles; and cocoa butter and almond oil to soften the skin); Waving Not Drowning Bath Ballistic (for a relaxing bath before sleep); and Never Too Busy To Be Beautiful Shower Gel (made of honey).

The Honey Farm (P845) gift box is a selection of fresh handmade cosmetics, each containing a blend of essential oils and one of nature's best ingredients, honey, traditionally used in cosmetics because of its ability to soothe the skin and calm the mind. Try Be Never Too Busy to Be Beautiful Shower Gel, Flying Saucers Bubble Bar and Honey Comfort Bath Ballistic—bath treats that ease tension and relieve stress. The real Dorset honeycomb in Lush's Honey Waffle Soap will leave you with soft skin and soothe any redness, while ylang ylang relaxes and creates feelings of joy.

The Give Peace a Chance (P845) gift box is an olive-branch offering composed of Karma Soap, World Piece Bath Ballistic and Aura Suavis or Amandopondo Bubble Bars. Each bar is made with essential oils that induce a feeling of well-being and calm.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lush boutiques are located at Glorietta 4 in Makati and at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell. Visit www.lush.com.ph.

Book it

POWERBOOKS assembles a fine group of books for Mom. Blue Mountain Press brings together some of the finest contemporary poetry and writings about a mother and her important role in the book "I Love You, Mom" edited by Gary Morris. "The Power of a Praying Wife" by Stormie Omartian gives a fresh view of the power of prayer in any relationship. "A Mother's Journal," a beautiful keepsake book for thoughts and dreams, contains page after page of inspirational quotes, messages and illustrations. Another collection of poems and writings, "For Mother: A Gift of Love," by Helen Exley comes with moving images that represent a mother's pure love. "Moments for Mothers" by Kimberly Snider is a day-to-day guide that gives tips, suggestions, anecdotes, stories and scriptural verses for reflection. Call Powerbooks at 844-4455 or visit www.powerbooks.com.ph.

Dusit does it for moms

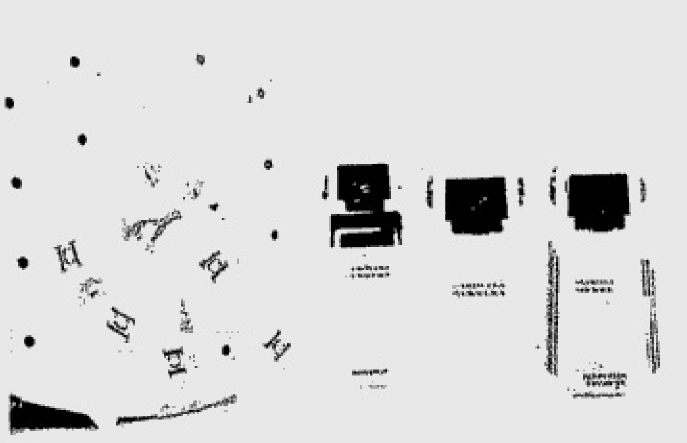
MOTHERS will receive complimentary 30-minute complete head and facial massage and treatment from Clark Hatch, complimentary pass to the Vietnamese cooking demo class by the Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant, a health and beauty session courtesy of Marks & Spencer, and a special token from Dusit.

To get all these, simply avail of the Mother's Day Weekend room package for only P3,600. The package includes an overnight accommodation for two adults and two children in a deluxe room, buffet breakfast for two persons at The Café, and late checkout.

Also book a minimum of two nights and pay only P2,999 per night. You may be upgraded to a deluxe executive room. All Dusit Fountains Club members are extended with 5-percent discount on top of the promo rate.

The offer is valid May 10-13.

Call 867-3333 local 3201 to 3205 or 3131 to 3134 or e-mail salesmnl@dusit.com, rsvnmnl@dusit.com, or visit www.dusit.com.



Carolina Herrera gets maternal

CAROLINA Herrera New York features the latest coffret for Mother's Day, containing a 50-ml EDP, a 100-ml Shower Gel and a 100-ml Body Lotion.

Carolina Herrera Mothers Delight is available at all Rustan's and leading department stores nationwide.

Liz Claiborne kisses summer moms

FLAUNT those curves with the sun-kissed Spring and Summer 2002 Liz Claiborne Collection offered at 10-percent discount for all mothers until May 10.

Let femininity and the young-lady look be exemplified through the collection's soft cowl necks and ruffle-curled collars that boast a fresh, flattering and thoroughly female glow.

Hardworking moms may also find that fine and graceful touch in the smooth kiss of silk against their skin, the coolness of cotton, stretch satin and gossamer linen.

Cardholders will receive a special gift. Liz Claiborne's Spring/Summer 2002 collection is available at the 3/L Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong.

Goodies for moms at Discovery

PAMPER mom with a luxurious and cozy overnight stay at Discovery Suites. When you book an overnight stay at Discovery Suites until May 12, you'll get a free brunch buffet for two at Cafe Berrio (available on May 12), a goodie bag for mom,and raffle stubs (also for walk-in diners at Cafe Berrio on May 12). The grand prize is an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Boracay. You'll also receive a 20-percent discount coupon from the Spa and a 25-percent discount at the romp room Action Kidz.

Mother's Day Brunch will also be served at the Columbus and Drake function rooms for walk-in guests. There will also be a Mother's Day special Mass at the Discovery Center Lobby on May 12 at 10 a.m. Call 683-8260 or 635-2222.

Also log in on www.herword.com, and join an online Mother's Day contest. All members will be invited to share anecdotes about their moms. The best entry for the week will win an overnight stay at Discovery Suites.